

Kuwait oilmen call off strike

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait oil workers have called off a rare strike planned for Sunday. The head of the Kuwait Union of Oil and Petrochemical Workers, Ahmad Al-Sayid, said the union had decided to call off the strike after the government agreed to meet its demands. The union had threatened a strike if its demands were not met. The demands included a 10 per cent wage increase and a 40-hour work week. The government had agreed to a 5 per cent wage increase and a 38-hour work week. The union had also demanded the right to elect its own representatives to the National Assembly. The government had agreed to a 5 per cent wage increase and a 38-hour work week. The union had also demanded the right to elect its own representatives to the National Assembly.

(See earlier story on page 6)



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جوردان تايمز

Iraqi leader visits Yemen

SANAA (AP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein arrived Saturday for talks with Ali Abdullah Saleh, president of newly unified Yemen, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Arab League summit conference that was held in Baghdad last month over perceived Israeli threats stemming from Baghdad's growing military might and the Palestinian problem. Another current major cause of Arab concern is the large-scale emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. Saleh was elected president for the new Arab state last month after North Yemen united with South Yemen. North Yemen was a member of the Arab Cooperation Council established with Iraq, Egypt and Jordan in February 1969 and that membership has been carried over by the new unified Yemen. Hussein was accompanied by Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and a member of Baghdad's ruling Revolutionary Command Council, Hassan Ali. Top leaders of the unified Yemen state, drawn from both North and South, flanked Saleh when he received the Iraqi leader.

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Oman sends letter to Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs has sent a letter to Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, the Omani News Agency reported on Saturday. Oman's partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council asked it in December to act as a peace-maker in Arab-Iranian disputes. The news agency report, received in Cyprus, said Youssef Ben Ali Al-Balushi's letter was delivered by Oman's ambassador in Tehran Thursday. It gave no further details. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia was quoted in a Saudi newspaper Thursday as saying he wanted to end disputes between Riyadh and Tehran.

Top PLO envoy meets French aide

PARIS (R) — A top envoy of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) met a senior French government official to discuss Israel's new right-wing government and the situation in the occupied territories, PLO sources said Saturday. The Elysee Palace confirmed that Hakan Balaoui, the PLO's ambassador in Tunis, met President Francois Mitterrand's diplomatic adviser, Louis Hennekinne, Friday afternoon. A spokesman for the PLO's Paris office said the hour-long meeting was the second between the two this month. "They discussed new developments including the PLO's recent Baghdad meeting," the spokesman added.

Levy had slight heart attack

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's new Foreign Minister David Levy suffered a slight heart attack two days ago but was in good condition Saturday, Israeli Radio reported. Dr. Ehud Cantor, deputy director of Haemek hospital, said Levy would be asked to stay in hospital until the end of the week so his condition could be monitored. Levy, who became foreign minister and deputy premier in the right-wing cabinet of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that took office last Monday, was admitted to hospital near his home on Thursday night after complaining of weakness. Government sources had said Levy, who was housing minister in the previous government, had been under heavy strain during nearly three months of political crisis that preceded formation of the new government.

Abu Nidal official killed in Lebanon

TYRE (AP) — An official of the Palestinian group led by Abu Nidal was killed Saturday during machine-gun exchanges with rival Palestinian fighters at the Rashidiyah refugee camp near Tyre. Police said Omar Hamadeh, Tyre regional commander of Abu Nidal's Fateh-Revolutionary Council, was killed in a sudden flare-up at 3 p.m. (GMT) with fighters of Fateh. Rashidiyah is 80 kilometres south of Beirut. Hamadeh's bodyguard, Mohamad Mar, was also wounded in the shooting, police reported. They said Hamadeh's death caused intensified clashes with machine-guns and hand grenades inside the camp.

Opposition leader says Somalia 'about to explode'

ROME (R) — A Somali opposition figure has said dissent within the country is about to explode following a wave of arrests of critics of President Mohammad Siad Barre. "Paradoxically, Barre's latest barbarous reprisals could work in our favour by increasing dissent inside and outside the country and cementing opposition forces," Ismail Jumale Osiobe, leader of the United Somali Congress, told the Italian news agency ANSA. "The country is about to explode... it's clear the fight against Barre's bloody dictatorship will continue until the final solution," he said in the interview. Earlier this month Somali security forces arrested a group of prominent government critics who had published a manifesto calling for a caretaker government to restore human rights and order to the country.

Lower House passes law on exemption from conscription

By Saad G. Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Saturday endorsed a law which exempts Jordanian expatriates and their sons from compulsory military service in return for a payment of an amount to be decided by the Council of Ministers.

The House, in its third meeting of the current extraordinary session, also approved a draft law which expands the jurisdiction of the supreme court.

The draft law on conscription was passed by 51 of the 70 members of the House who attended the session. The approval followed a heated debate in which several deputies questioned the amendment and some others called for the total abolition of compulsory military service.

The modified version of the law reads: "Any Jordanian residing abroad but not a member of the Kingdom's diplomatic corps will be exempted from military service if he pays the Treasury a lump sum amount to be fixed by the Council of Ministers."

Prime Minister Mudar Badran, countering deputies' arguments, said about 40,000 Jordanians were estimated to be covered under the new law and that although the Cabinet had not decided on a specific amount \$10,000 was the contemplated payment for each exemption. He said the new arrangement would boost the Kingdom's foreign exchange reserves at a time of dire need.

Remittances from expatriates have always been a major source of foreign currency for Jordan. However, the inflow registered a decline in the last two years, but is expected to pick up this year.

according to senior officials.

Badran said the draft law would also ease the prescribed punitive measures against draft dodgers who are reluctant to return to Jordan for fear of prosecution. "The law will have dual benefits," Badran said. "It will help the Treasury as well as those the potential beneficiaries (of exemption) who resort to reunions with families outside Jordan for fear of punishment if they return to the Kingdom," he said.

"Official statistics indicate that the majority of them have not visited Jordan, worrying that they or their sons will be forcefully taken to serve in the army," he added.

The compulsory military service extends for two years for every Jordanian male, except chronically ill persons or only sons. The service could be deferred until the age of 37 for expatriates and sons.

The prime minister told the House Saturday that Jordan still needed conscription because the Kingdom was in a continuing state of war with Israel.

Several deputies criticised the amendment to the law. Thouban Hindawi argued that the law could create social prejudices between those who can afford to pay the exemption charge and those who fall short of meeting the prescribed figure.

"It will encourage the creation of a new class which will become alienated from the rest of the society," he argued. "This class will pay what it considers a paltry sum to the country compared to what it owns of real estate, land and vehicles, while a hardworking farmer will have to leave his sons and duties to proudly perform his national duties," he said.

Deputy Abdul Salam Freihah,

who is also an assistant speaker of the House, said the law "violated the Constitution which says that all Jordanians are equal."

Deputy Ali Hawamdeh said all those who take advantage of the exemption should be required to serve in the People's Army and Badran replied that it would be so just as in the case of all others who do not join the military service. The original law stipulated that exemptions could be extended to "the only son and brother of martyrs who gave their lives in the line of duty, the only brother of mentally-handicapped sibling and the physically and mentally retarded..."

Badran also rejected suggestions that the duration of compulsory military service be reduced to one year. "Nearly 40 to 50 per cent of the conscripts involved in field work are second-year servicemen who have acquired special skills and training, and military experts do not find it feasible to limit the duration to one year," the prime minister told the House.

The House also passed a draft amendment to the Supreme Court Law as presented by the Legal Committee but with minor changes.

Deputy Salim Za'bi told the Jordan Times the amendment would expand the jurisdiction of the supreme court by cancelling a previous article which forbade defendants from contesting a decision taken by the executive branch.

The amendment would also give the supreme court the authority to order the compensation of a defendant whose appeal is upheld by the supreme court. In other words the supreme court gained further authority to overrule government decisions.

Hrawi rejects papal proposal

BEIRUT (Agencies) — President Elias Hrawi's government has rejected a proposal by the Vatican to amend an Arab League-brokered peace plan in return for rebel General Michel Aoun recognising Hrawi's authority, newspapers reported Saturday.

Beirut's independent Al Nahar daily said a "unified stand" on rejecting the proposal was taken by Hrawi, Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss and Parliament Speaker Hussein Hussein, a Shi'ite Muslim.

Police reported that Aoun's mainly Christian troops skirmished with their rivals, the Lebanese Forces militia led by warlord Samir Geagea, during the night.

That was the latest violation of an increasingly fragile month-old ceasefire, brokered by the Vatican, in their power struggle for control of the Christian enclave north of Beirut.

Police said the two sides clashed with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades by the light of parachute flares in Christian east Beirut.

But police said no casualties were reported and the fighting died down at dawn.

By police count, 1,036 people have been killed and 2,774 wounded since the fighting erupted Jan. 30. The battles have forced 40 per cent of the enclave's one million population to flee to safer areas or leave the country.

The reported rejection of the Vatican's initiative was a setback for efforts to break the deadlock in the Arab League's peace effort to end Lebanon's 15-year-old civil war.

The peace plan was endorsed by Lebanon's parliament in 23 days of deliberations, under Arab League auspices, at the Saudi Arabian resort of Taif in October.

Kuwait, EC discuss peace efforts

KUWAIT (AP) — Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins discussed with Kuwaiti leaders Saturday the role the European Community (EC) can play to help the Middle East peace process, informed sources said.

Collins, current chairman of the EC ministerial council, held separate meetings with the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad.

The discussions focused in particular on Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and Arab fears that they will be settled in the Israeli-occupied territories, said the sources who requested anonymity.

The takeover of a hawkish government in Israel which has vowed to crush the Palestinian uprising was also discussed.

"We reviewed Europe's attitude towards the perils implicit in Soviet Jewish emigration to occupied territories... we found extreme understanding in the EC's part for this question..." said Sheikh Sabah to reporters.

Collins said he briefed the Kuwaiti leaders on the outcome of a recent EC ministerial council meeting which stressed the need for "a just, comprehensive and durable solution for the Palestinian question and the Middle East."

He commended the "moderate" peace overtures by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and said the EC sees that a solution to the Palestinian question and the Middle East problem lies in the convening of an international peace conference "with the participation of all parties."

Earlier, in an interview with the daily Al Watan, Collins specifically mentioned the PLO as a party that should be included in the proposed international conference. He said: "A solution will not materialise in the Middle East without recognising the rights of the Palestinians to self-determination."

Lithuania may freeze independence declaration

MOSCOW (R) — The Lithuanian government proposed Saturday that the Baltic republic's declaration of independence be suspended to facilitate talks with Moscow on its future.

"The government suggests to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania (parliament) that it debate the possibility of declaring a temporary moratorium on the (independence) act for the period of negotiations with the Soviet Union," a statement from the parliament's information bureau said.

It said the government believed the moratorium could be declared immediately but take effect only when Moscow lifted economic sanctions against the rebel republic.

The government decision followed talks in Moscow June 13 between Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimieras Prunskiene and Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov which brought the first signs of a breakthrough in the three-month crisis.

Prunskiene emerged from those talks saying Moscow had agreed to lift economic sanctions partially by resuming some gas supplies to her republic.

She indicated that Lithuania was prepared to soften its previous stance by temporarily freezing its March 11 independence act for the duration of talks with Moscow.



Two scenes from Saturday's session of the Lower House of Parliament (Photos by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Additional tax on all insurance except life

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Saturday decided to implement a new system for insurance policies except those related to life insurance. Under the new system, an additional 10 per cent will be charged on premiums for all kinds of insurance except life. This amount will go to the Civil Defence Department and immediate emergency services.

All insurance companies should collect this additional tax and remit it to the Ministry of Finance within seven days of collection from the public.

The new regulation takes immediate effect, and the Ministry of Finance will issue all related administrative regulations covering the new system.

Ramallah college reopened after 30-month closure

RAMALLAH, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — The Israeli occupation authorities Saturday reopened the first college in the occupied West Bank after a 30-month closure.

The reopening of Ramallah Nursery College is seen as a test case of whether the remaining five Arab universities in the occupied territories with a total of 18,000 students would reopen as well.

The military closed Palestinian institutions of higher learning shortly after the Palestinian uprising erupted in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in December 1987.

The United States and Western Europe sharply criticised the move as collective punishment, and the European Parliament at one stage recommended that scientific cooperation with Israel be frozen until the universities and colleges are reopened.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir ordered a gradual reopening of the universities May 14, and the authorities then planned to reopen the first university within days.

Palestinian leaders welcomed the move as a sign that Israel was responding to international pressure. But the reopening was suspended for a month following the May 20 massacre of eight Palestinian labourers by an Israeli gunman near Tel Aviv and the subsequent wave of violent protests in the occupied territories.

In Ramallah, about a dozen students standing outside the college, a branch of Jerusalem University, said they hoped that studies would now continue without interruption.

"There is a decision by the uprising leadership not to use the academic institutions as centres for demonstrations and other activities," said 23-year-old Halil Mustafa Sarhan, 23, from Hebron in the West Bank.

Underground leaders of the rebellion have said in recent leaflets that resumption of studies was a top priority, and that students must not give the army an excuse to close facilities.

Yasser Obeid, head of the college's board of trustees, said that Israel's coordinator of activities in the occupied territories, Shmuel Goren, warned him the college would be closed again if students start protests.

Ossama Najjar, 24, was starting his second year of medical technology studies when the college closed. He believes students will try to avoid confrontation and catch up on their studies.

"Everybody will remember these long months, I think it will stay quiet," he said.

Palestinians say the closures are a collective punishment not related to any particular incidents.

"The order (to close) was a blanket order covering all universities so I don't think that specific

Finnish foreign minister due in Amman June 26

AMMAN (J.T.) — Finnish Foreign Minister Pertti Paasio will start a two-day visit to Jordan on June 26 at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Saturday.

Finland's consul in Amman told the Jordan Times that Paasio, who will be accompanied by a five-member delegation and a team of journalists from the Finnish press, radio and television services, will hold talks with Qasem on Middle East issues and the general

situation in the occupied Arab territories.

Paasio, who could also be received by His Majesty King Hussein, will be coming from Syria after inspecting the Finnish unit serving with the United Nations peace-keeping force in occupied Golan Heights and in southern Lebanon, according to Numan Irshaidat, Finland's honorary consul here.

Following the delegation's stay in Jordan, its members will make a tour of the occupied Arab territories.

Calm returns to Bucharest

BUCHAREST (AP) — The capital's streets returned to calm Saturday after the exodus of coal miners who clubbed and terrorised suspected government opponents and bystanders.

The official Rompres news agency said Saturday that six people were killed and 502 injured in the violence that erupted after club-wielding riot police broke up a 53-day, anti-government demonstration early Wednesday.

At least 110 of the injured remained hospitalised, seven with very serious injuries, said Rompres, quoting Health Ministry officials.

It was the worst outburst of violence since the December revolution that led to the overthrow and execution of communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

The thousands of miners left, as they arrived, at the behest of President-elect Ion Iliescu. The president Friday thanked "with all my heart" the workers who came to defend his government against what he termed "fascist" rebellion organised by right-wingers in Romania and elsewhere in Europe.

The last train of miners left Bucharest late Friday night for western Romania, railway official Ion Tica was quoted as saying by Rompres.

The centre of the city was quiet as a steady rain fell. Helmeted police carrying automatic weapons guarded University Square and reinforcements sat in trucks nearby.

Rows of tanks guarded key buildings including government headquarters and the state television headquarters, which came under fierce attack Wednesday night from anti-government demonstrators.

Iliescu told the miners Friday that he was planning a national guard "of clean, loyal, honest people, who can act resolutely at exceptional times," according to a Romanian radio reported monitored in London.

It said he reiterated previous statements that the government was under threat from a right-wing coup, and charged that forces from abroad were involved.

"We are dealing here with a broader scenario of European proportions," Iliescu was quoted as saying. "There was a joint action of right-wing forces, which started from the presumption that right-wing forces in all East European countries could come to power."

Iliescu also said interior and defence ministry forces will maintain order in Bucharest.

Blacks mark 'Soweto Day'

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Blacks staged rallies nationwide Saturday to mark the 14th anniversary of the Soweto student uprisings that led to nationwide protests and spawned a generation of militant anti-apartheid activists.

More than 50 events were planned throughout the country to observe June 16, 1976, or "Soweto Day," when police opened fire on black students protesting the education policy of the white-led government.

At least 600 blacks, many of them children, were shot dead during the 1976 uprising.

Most rallies were organised separately by rival black groups which have fought increasingly violently for influence among the black majority ahead of possible talks with the government.

Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), the main black opposition group, said the most emotional day in the black political calendar should be marked by tolerance among anti-apartheid organisations.

"The ANC wants to underline the importance of tolerance, discipline and restraint amongst the various organisations," ANC official Mathew Phosa said in a statement.

Rival black South Africans meanwhile appealed for anti-apartheid unity.

In previous years hundreds of thousands of blacks stayed away from work on June 16 but this year the problem for employers has been avoided because it falls on a weekend.

Most rallies were organised separately by rival black groups which have fought increasingly violently for influence among the black majority ahead of possible talks with the government.

The threat of violence hung over the gold mining town of Welkom in Orange Free State province, where neo-Nazi whites of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement were holding a march a few kilometres from an ANC rally.

Forty members of the movement paraded to Welkom police station with a letter for the government demanding the speedy release or trial of whites held in connection with the bombing of a Pretoria museum.

The ANC's call was echoed by

Algerian fundamentalist leader promises to support democracy

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algeria's fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which swept to victory in local elections Tuesday, has promised to preserve multi-party democracy if it takes power nationally.

FIS leader Abassi Madani, in a television debate broadcast Friday night, made his clearest statement yet that political freedom would continue under an Islamic state.

"We leave the word to the people. Whether we are in power or not, democracy means a diversity (of parties), choice and freedom. We have promised this. God willing, and we will keep this promise," Madani said.

The FIS won 55 per cent of the 1,541 municipal councils and two-thirds of the 48 provincial assemblies in the country's first free poll, trouncing the National Liberation Front that has ruled unchallenged for 28 years.

Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD), a centre-left party run by ethnic Berbers that favours separation of state and religion, won 87 town councils.

RCD leader said Saadi hit back at Madani on the same programme saying, "when someone says they represent the shadow of God on Earth it (democracy) is finished."

Madani replied: "We do not impose ourselves on the people. They might find better than us."

Doubts about the commitment of the FIS to democracy were

reinforced Friday when one of its most popular figures, fiery young preacher Ali Benhadj, told a prayer meeting it made him sad to see Islam fought for in elections.

"We will never trade shura (an Islamic system of consensus) for democracy," he said.

Madani reiterated demands for early parliamentary elections, not due until 1992.

Benhadj Friday lashed out at France and warned it not to intervene after FIS swept to victory in local elections.

He told a Friday prayer sermon attended by some 15,000 followers that French President Francois Mitterrand still had blood on his hands — a reference to his role in the French government during the Algerian war of independence.

"Mitterrand still thinks he is the tutor of the Algerians. He still has blood on his hands. His latest statement was as if he had given us a visa to exist, but we do not need this," Benhadj said.

Mitterrand reacted to the FIS victory in Algeria's first multi-party poll since independence by saying Algeria was a sovereign state and he wanted to continue good relations.

"If France tries anything we will respond like the martyrs (fallen guerrilla fighters) in the mountains. We will break the neck of despotism and injustice," Benhadj said.

He said France still had to pay for killings of Muslim civilians carried out by French settlers and troops in the eastern city of Setif in 1945.

The fundamentalist victory has caused concern in France where it may strengthen the hand of the extreme right-wing National Front, which opposes North African immigration.

Meanwhile two Iranian English-language dailies Saturday hailed the victory of Islamic fundamentalists in Algeria's municipal elections, but said they have "a long way to go to establish the rule of Islam" in the North African country.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, quoted the Kayhan International daily as saying in an editorial that the fundamentalists' victory in Tuesday's elections "is strong evidence that the ideals of Islam remain the catalytic force for change in the Muslim world."

Iran is staunchly fundamentalist and its 1979 Islamic revolution, which overthrew the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, is widely seen to have spurred an Islamic revival.

Kayhan International noted: "The chances are that the Salva-

tion Front will overwhelm the ruling party in parliamentary voting."

But the radical-leaning daily warned: "Obviously a media barrage is being prepared to paint the Islamic resurgence in Algeria in the gloomiest of colours."

It said that "what is not yet obvious, but soon will be" is that Sheikh Abassi Madani "is an astute, brilliant and sophisticated politician who seeks to return his nation to the path of the Koran," Islam's holy book.

The Tehran Times, which usually reflects the thinking of President Hashemi Rafsanjani, said in an editorial: "The Salvation Front victory... marks a big defeat for all imported ideologies in Islamic countries."

It branded the Liberation Front "an imitation of certain East European Socialist parties."

The Tehran Times also predicted that Islamic fundamentalists in Algeria have "a long march ahead before they can become the government."

The daily noted: "Foreign powers, together with the defeated Liberation Front, will certainly leave no stone unturned to face the fledgling political forces with a variety of obstacles."

The emergence of the Salvation Front and the prospect of it taking power will disturb European powers "such as France... and the vulnerable Western-oriented governments of Tunisia and Morocco," the Tehran Times said.

Washington continues to oppose legislated sanctions on Iraq

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States continues to oppose the imposition of legislated trade sanctions against Iraq, Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly has told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, "because unilateral trade and economic sanctions would not improve our ability to exercise a restraining influence on Iraqi actions."

Kelly explained that there are two schools of thought on legislated sanctions: one school would impose sanctions and cut off contact with offending nations; the other school would attempt to remain engaged and bring moral pressure to bear for constructive change.

He said that in recent years Iraq has taken some steps the United States has wanted in an effort to improve bilateral relations. "One step, for example,

was the expulsion of the Abu Nidal gang."

He also noted that Iraq cooperated with Arab League efforts to end the fighting in Lebanon, and "is now discussing a new constitution (for Iraq) which would potentially provide greater recognition of human rights" as well as participated in a number of chemical weapons and disarmament conferences.

"On basis of past experience," Kelly said, the administration "does not believe that legislating unilateral trade and economic sanctions would help achieve U.S. goals with Iraq."

For economic sanctions to be effective, Kelly said, they must be imposed on a multilateral basis, and "there is no prospect of this in the case of Iraq." He said the U.S. has, on many occasions,

broached the subject with European allies, but to no avail, adding he personally had raised the subject of sanctions with numerous allies but to no avail.

To suspend U.S. export promotion programmes was unilaterally "would be to deny U.S. exporters the ability to compete with foreign exporters who continue to benefit from their governments' export promotion programmes," Kelly said. "Our competitors in Canada, Australia, Europe and Japan would step in quickly to fill the breach."

Kelly's remarks came in a four-hour Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing at which he was joined by Joshua R. Gilder, deputy assistant secretary of state for human rights in testifying on U.S. policy and concerns relating to Iraq.

Radical Iranian daily urges crackdown

NICOSIA (AP) — Tehran's radical Jomhuri Islami daily called Saturday for a crackdown on "fifth column" groups following the arrest of senior officials of Iran's token opposition party.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Cyprus, quoted the daily as saying in an editorial that "no mercy" should be shown to opposition figures "who aid the enemies of the Islamic revolution."

The publication of the editorial raised speculation that the government of President Hashemi Rafsanjani, leader of Tehran's so-called pragmatists, was under growing pressure from radical rivals to move against liberals seeking greater social and political freedoms.

The editorial was published two days after Iranian authorities arrested eight leading members of the Freedom Movement of Iran, a small party led by the Islamic Republic's first prime

minister, Mehdi Bazargan.

In the past, the kind of barrage of vituperative denunciation like that now aimed at Bazargan's movement has often been the prelude to treason trials.

The crackdown against the Freedom Movement appeared to signal the final crushing of the faction that has functioned as Iran's only legal political opposition party over the last decade despite constant harassment by Islamic radicals.

The Tehran authorities declared the party illegal Friday. Bazargan, 83, was not reported to be among the Freedom Movement activists arrested in Tehran earlier this week and he was believed to be in hiding.

Jomhuri Islami said the arrests came after "constant, organised and clandestine contacts by these people with foreign circles for the last several years."

It claimed that during the 1980-88 war with Iraq, "the group

functioned as a fifth column serving the objectives of the enemies of the Islamic revolution and the Iranian nation."

The daily said the dossier on those arrested "is full of documents proving their treason against the nation, turning their backs on the aspirations of the revolution and their attempt to bring back the diabolic rule" of the monarchy.

During the war, Bazargan repeatedly called on the Tehran hierarchy to make peace with Iraq, particularly after the Iranians pushed the invading Iraqis back across the border in 1982.

Bazargan was one of 90 political figures, military officers, lawyers and intellectuals who last month signed an open letter to Rafsanjani demanding the restoration of full constitutional rights.

It accused Rafsanjani of trampling on civil liberties and mismanaging the economy.

U.N. renews mandate of Cyprus force

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council has unanimously approved another six-month renewal of the U.N. peace-keeping force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) until Dec. 15, 1990.

The force, comprising 2,130 men, has been stationed on the Mediterranean island since 1964 to help keep the peace between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities.

It consists of troop contingents from Austria, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland and Sweden, and about 40 civilian police from Australia and Sweden.

Cyprus has been virtually partitioned since 1974 when troops from Turkey occupied the northern part after a short-lived coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece.

Repeated rounds of U.N.-sponsored talks to reunite the island under a federal system of government have all failed.

The most recent attempt was when Cypriot President George Vassiliou and Turkish Cypriot Leader Rauf Denktaş met in New York last February and March.

Addressing the council after the vote, Cypriot U.N. representative Andreas Mavrommatis blamed Turkey and Denktaş for the failure of the latest round of negotiations and said his government might have to seek further council involvement.

"Cyprus, although always trying to the extent consistent with its sovereign rights not to do anything that could give Turkey any pretext to avoid or delay the negotiating process, has to warn that events have by far overtaken its limits of patience and is now bound to take appropriate action,



A Muslim Lebanese soldier welcomes a Christian family trying to cross into the western part of Beirut. Residents of east Beirut continue

to flee the embattled Christian enclave as fighting continued for the third straight month.

Lebanese Christian leaders speak of peace but battle-hardened forces prepare for war

By Peter Smerdon
Reuters

BEIRUT — On the barricaded streets of east Beirut where rival Christian leaders are talking of a comprehensive peace their battle-hardened forces are preparing for more war.

After four months of battles in which more than 1,000 people were killed, General Michel Aoun and Lebanese Forces (LF) militia leader Samir Geagea are now calling for an extensive resolution of Lebanon's problems through Vatican mediation.

"It is a strange situation," said one Western diplomat. "Having fought each other to a standstill and wrecked much of east Beirut they seem happy to raise the stakes on any peace settlement."

"With the Vatican's involvement Aoun and Geagea say they cannot make peace in east Beirut without settling problems in and with (mainly Muslim) west Beirut. And many people are so desperate they encourage this."

Other Western diplomats,

whose own earlier efforts failed to resolve the Geagea-Aoun power struggle, are divided over whether the latest manoeuvres might bring an overall solution to Lebanon's 15 years of civil war or lead to greater disaster.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Despite a ceasefire called on May 26 by Papal Muncio Monsignor Pablo Puente, Aoun's troops and Geagea's militiamen have reinforced positions and moved in artillery. They clash sporadically, usually at night but increasingly during the day.

Diplomatic sources said the LF landed more weapons supplied by Iraq, including 244 mm multi-barreled rocket launchers. Geagea, 39, says Aoun is still receiving ammunition and fuel through Syrian-controlled areas.

"Such instability produces feelings of impending doom but might be a plus. It may aid negotiations because if there was no fighting there would be little point talking

peace," said one military analyst.

The latest idea to end the inter-Christian war involves a dialogue between Aoun, Geagea and Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi. Diplomats said it was more Puente's proposal than a Vatican plan.

They and Geagea said the main impetus for the proposal was the church's fear that more fighting would bring another Christian exodus. More than 250,000 are believed to have fled their homes in the past year.

Muslim and Christian leaders are vague about what may be discussed, cloaking their vagueness by saying that publicising issues will not resolve them.

But any talks between east and west Beirut will have to deal with at least some of the thorniest problems behind Lebanon's deepest political crisis since independence from France in 1943.

Some of them are included in a plan agreed by Lebanon's Muslims and Christian deputies in Taif, Saudi Arabia last October

to end Lebanon's civil war. The Arab-backed pact is supported by Hrawi, rejected by Aoun and partly accepted by Geagea.

Aoun, 54, still refuses to recognise Hrawi as president and operates his own headquarters from the presidential palace in the Christian enclave. The general however told Reuters last week it did not matter who was head of state as long as a solution was reached.

Apparently to avoid sabotaging Puente's initiative both Aoun and Geagea have been unusually wary of criticising their traditional common foe, Syria, which has 40,000 troops in Lebanon. Aoun cited failure to produce a timetable for their withdrawal as a major reason for his opposition to the Taif pact.

"I believe the ceasefire will last perhaps several weeks but will be followed by more fighting and negotiations," said a Christian Lebanese academic, who is making plans to leave Lebanon for good next month.

Turkey sees no quick improvement in Syria ties

ANKARA (R) — Talks aimed at improving relations between Turkey and Syria after decades of mistrust have failed to settle disputes over sharing vital Euphrates River water and curbing Kurdish rebels.

Official Turkish sources said there was no breakthrough on the two issues when Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa held discussions in Ankara Thursday and Friday.

"I cannot say we were satisfied on security and there was no sign of any progress on water. There is no doubt the water issue will continue," a source close to the talks told Reuters.

Turkey, stung by a deadly guerrilla raid on June 10, wants Syria to clamp down on separatist Kurdish insurgents training in Lebanon's Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley.

"We raised the security issue but we got the usual answer. We did not expect any more than this. The Syrians said they cannot control the Bekaa," the source said.

Damascus is seeking a speeding up of the sharing of waters of the Euphrates River, a major irrigation and electric power-generating source flowing from Turkey to Syria and Iraq.

Ties have also been hit by Syrian claims to Turkey's Hatay

province and last October's shooting down by Syrian MiGs of a civilian survey plane over the area, killing five people aboard.

In a sign that both sides were trying to edge forward this week, officials agreed to implement agreements for Turkey to supply electricity to Syria and for Turkey to seek oil in Syria.

Two-way trade, heavily in Turkey's favour, was \$194.4 million in 1989, up from \$147.4 million in 1988, officials said.

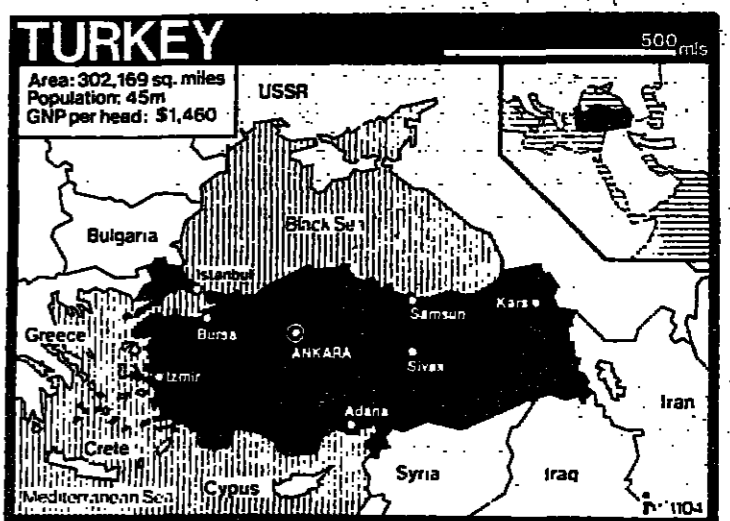
"Despite everything there is a stability in our relations. It is not absolutely negative or positive," Seyfi Tashan, head of Turkey's private Foreign Policy Institute, told Reuters.

He said ties were pragmatic and cool, similar to relations with other neighbours under Ottoman rule until World War I.

Sharaa met Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut and Foreign Minister Ali Bozer, as well as President Turgut Ozal, who visited Damascus in 1987 and paved the way for better ties.

Relations before then were soured mainly by Syrian claims to the fertile Hatay area, a one-time Ottoman province known as Antioch in French-mandate Syria until ceded to Turkey in 1939.

"Hatay is ours and that is finished. The Syrians have a problem because it is a matter of



public opinion for them," a Foreign Ministry official said.

Ozal hinted last August that Turkey might use water as a political weapon unless Syria and Iraq curbed cross-border raids by rebels of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK).

Turkey has been at pains since then to rule out any such option. "Such a move is out of the question," one source said.

Before Sharaa came to Turkey, a Syrian spokesman said: "The main topic... will be the Euphrates River waters and speeding up the sharing of these waters

among Turkey, Syria and Iraq. Ankara said the issue should not be on the agenda."

Turkey halted most of the flow for a month from January to help fill its Ataturk Dam, centerpiece of an \$11 billion project to be finished in 20 years to revive the economically backward southeast where PKK rebels are active.

Ankara said it increased the flow before the cut to ensure that an average agreed amount of 500 cubic metres a second went to Syria, which shares a 900-kilometres border with Turkey.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Football
18:00 World Cup: Ireland vs. Egypt
19:30 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:00 Varieties programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Tel Feh Tel Feh
18:15 L'ecole de l'ans
19:00 News in French
19:15 French varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Hey Dad
21:10 Doc. "Global Report"
21:45 News in English
22:00 World Cup: Belgium vs. Uruguay

PRAYER TIMES

03:50 Fajr
05:25 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:34 Dhuhr
16:17 'Asr
19:48 Maghreb
21:23 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetfish, Tel. 811741

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632705

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 665326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh, causing dust in the eastern and southern parts of the country. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly fresh and seas wavy.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 691228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 643402

Traffic Police 666340

Public Security Department 630521

Hotel Complaints 645900

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 667467

Complaints 677111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Repairs 661101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 773111

Radio Jordan 681010

Water Authority 815615

Electricity Authority 636381

RJ Flight Information 06-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813413/2

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6

Akheh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2

Mahbas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shuqiani 664171/4

Shamsani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845645

Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37

Al-Ah, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775112/6

Army, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 662460/9

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09991071)

Ibn Sina Hospital 09996732

IRBID:

Princess Baena Hospital 02127555

Green Catholic Hospital 02127275

Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital 021247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital 03131411

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
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Fairness, credibility and volte-faces

THE BACKING-DOWN by the U.S. administration on the blunt criticism that Secretary of State James Baker directed at the new Israeli government the other day reinforces the long-held Arab view that Washington cannot possibly be serious in implementing a fair and balanced policy in the Middle East. Even when Israel is wrong, and the Americans know it, the U.S. cannot throw a slap at the Israelis and make it stick for more than 24 hours.

"Israel is a strong ally of the U.S. They're going to continue to be one, a staunch friend. We will not change that policy one iota," the State Department spokeswoman quotes Baker as telling her, hardly a day after the secretary says to the world that Israel was making it impossible for the Palestinians to negotiate on fair conditions. Then goes on the air Richard Cheney who extols the infinite value of the Israelis, exactly at the same time as Baker is dressing them down for their obstinacy. No matter what Israel does, and however the world is changing, the defence secretary says, the Jewish state will continue "to get 35 per cent of the administration's fiscal 1991 budget request for security assistance. Israel is due to begin taking delivery on its third order of F-16 aircraft in 1991. We also expect the Israeli defence forces to be getting the first Apache attack helicopters soon, and we are funding a portion of Israel's naval modernisation programme.... And that's just a sample of what we're doing."

It is not that the Arab World expects the U.S. to stop its strategic alliance and eternal friendship with the Israelis. Rather, it is fairness and objectivity that we have been seeking, but not getting, from successive U.S. administrations.

Fair play, balance and objectivity are supposed to be perennial hallmarks of American politics when it comes to areas and issues East and West, big and small. But not in the Middle East. Where is the fairness in equating PLO condemnation of the aborted seashore operation with the demand from Israel to talk with the Palestinians? Which objectivity is that which asks the oppressed to give in to the dictates of the oppressor? And the occupied to accept the role of the occupier? Baker said it right the day he levelled criticism at the Israelis. What happened to his convictions and expressed beliefs 24 hours later? Did the world change that much in that short period? Or is it the wrath of an extremist government that he feared to incur if he insisted on keeping a principled position?

The view strongly held by some Arabs that the U.S. is a prisoner of Israeli politics, no matter what happens, is daily growing more convincing to more and more Arabs. With more of the same from the U.S., there will come a time when nothing in the world can salvage America's credibility and reputation.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

ISRAEL reacted firmly and promptly to James Baker's statements in the past week by announcing that it would not offer positive proposals concerning negotiations with the Palestinians, said Al Ra'i. The Israeli reply was a blunt answer to Baker's ideas and served as a notice to the U.S. administration that Israel won't budge no matter what statements its officials might make, the paper said. It said the Arabs had realised that Baker's statement was meant as an appeasement of the Arab countries when he said that Israel was not helping the peace process, but the Jewish state's blunt reply came when the effect of this appeasement seemed to go too far. Furthermore, the U.S. administration itself has now backed down when it said that the White House does not hold Israel responsible for blocking peace talks in the Middle East. By so doing Washington seemed to have offered an apology to Israel over Baker's statements, the paper said. The short-lived lip-service which Washington has been in the habit of offering the Arabs is not a novelty and can only reflect the total lack of American credibility in our area, the paper said.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily warmly welcomed a strong statement issued Thursday by the European Community (EC) which called for a halt to Jewish immigration and Israel's inhuman practices in Arab lands. Bader Abdul Haq said the statement came at a time when the Arabs seemed to have lost their Soviet friends and began to feel isolated in the international community. The European Parliament's statement came to revive hope in the Arab World that at least some nations are keen on establishing justice and peace in the world and there is need to put an end to all of aggression, the writer said. We know that the European Parliament is not a decision-maker in Europe but the statement can serve as a sort of pressure and its recommendations cannot be overlooked by European governments, the writer continued. The strongly-worded statement, which called for an international enquiry into Israel's inhuman practices in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, served as a source of renewed hope for the Arab countries, and the statement's reference to Jewish immigration helped to focus further light on the deteriorating situation in the Middle East, the writer added. By referring to the immigration question, the statement has called world attention to the danger of new explosion in the Middle East region, he said.

AL DUSTOUR said a United Nations envoy who will shortly tour the occupied territories is not bound to discover anything new about the situation. The envoy will of course witness aspects of Israel's atrocities and its repressive rule; and will also realise the fact that Israel is behind all obstacles impeding a settlement; but what we are interested in is his report to the secretary general, the paper noted. It said that through this report, the Arabs hope that the international community will come to realise the dimension of the tragedy befalling the Palestinians and prompt some kind of pressure on the Zionists to halt their atrocities.

SUNDAY'S ECONOMIC PULSE

Agricultural marketing over regulated

PERHAPS the heavy handed regulation, coupled with ambiguous and fast-shifting policies for imports and exports, is the main obstacle facing the production of fruits and vegetables and the marketing of these products abroad, and opening stable markets for the Jordanian agricultural products in Europe and the Gulf. Those middlemen who operate in the market could not reasonably predict when and why the doors for importing or exporting one product or another are opened or closed. Therefore, agricultural production and its marketing had become sort of gambling and expecting surprises. The Arab Gulf importer of Jordanian agricultural products could not count on the dependability of the Jordanian exporter, who in turn does not know when and if he will be allowed or prevented from honouring his commitment to deliver at a future date.

Therefore, the Agricultural Marketing Corporation (AMC) should be commended for its issuance of a brief paper to explain the policies and principles that guide the corporation's officials in the regulation of importing and exporting fresh fruits and vegetables. But, did these policies and principles make things any better to those who are concerned?

At the outset the paper defined the general economic objectives of regulating agricultural trade. The objectives are straight forward and easy to agree upon. The problem is whether or not these

desired objectives would be served by such policies and principles which give the regulators a free hand to allow or prevent exports and imports of certain products that makes future decisions rather uncertain, and the business of production and marketing highly risky.

The major principle, according to the paper which will guide the AMC decisionmaking, is simply that, in principle, export of agricultural products is allowed, and import of these products is forbidden. This simple position is of little value, because there are many exceptions. When exports are banned and imports are allowed, it may please consumers but would frustrate producers and traders. The problem is further complicated when such exceptions are introduced without advance warning and sufficient time to plan or change plans for production and marketing.

The instruments used by the corporation to regulate export and import activities are a quarterly plan which defines the particular products that may be imported during three months and the timing of allowance and prevention, and a monthly plan "to secure the required flexibility." The monthly plan was finally abolished as of last week.

The problem is that the quarterly plan is too short to allow

planning for production, and the monthly plan is too short to allow planning exports and imports unless of course the broker has an advance tip of what is going to happen.

AMC says that it formulates its annual, quarterly, and monthly plans based on its own projections to domestic production, input from the West Bank and Gaza across the open bridges, and the volume of domestic consumption. All these parameters are highly unpredictable. Domestic production is extremely sensitive to changing weather conditions; quantities coming from the West Bank depend on unknown conditions, and the volume of local consumption depends of course on the price level which is another unknown.

The result is that, AMC planning for imports and exports could not be much better than a guess work. The decisions to allow or ban imports and exports are sort of crisis management. The solution is to open the door for exports with no restrictions because exports should enjoy priority over consumption. The items that are allowed to be imported should be clearly defined and be charged with an import duty tax just like all foreign industrial commodities; thus both the producer and the broker will know exactly what to expect, and how to plan, act and make dependable commitments.

This is another case where to solve a problem you don't need to tell the government what it should do, but what it should not.

Europarlament assails Israel

Following is the full text of a resolution adopted by the European Parliament on June 14, 1990.

By Mr. Arbeloa Muru, Mr. Sakellariou and Mrs. Dury, on behalf of the Socialist group;

Mr. Robles Piquer, Mr. Pierros and Mr. Chanterie, on behalf of the European People's Party;

Mrs. Aulas, on behalf of the Green group in the European Parliament;

Mr. Vecchi, on behalf of the Group of the European Unitarian Left;

Mr. De Rosa, on behalf of the Left Unity group;

Seeking to replace the motions for resolutions by:

— Mr. Robles Piquer and others, on behalf of the European People's Party (B 3-1194/90),

— Mr. Pierros, on behalf of the EPP Group (B 3-1199/90) (Christian Democrats)

— Mr. De Rosa and others, on behalf of the Left Unity Group (B 3-1207/90)

— Mr. Arbeloa Muru and others, on behalf of the Socialist group (B 3-1223/90)

— Mrs. Aulas and others, on behalf of the Green group in the European Parliament (B 3-1245/90)

— Mr. Vecchi and others, on behalf of the group of the European Unitarian Left (B 3-1261/90)

On Israel and the situation in the occupied territories.

The European Parliament,

A. Having regard to the terrible massacre of eight Palestinian workers in cold blood on May 20 at Rishon-le-Zion by an isolated individual, which led to justified protests by the Palestinian population in the occupied territories, followed by bloody repression by the Israeli army, which cost the lives of another six Palestinians and was responsible for wounding nearly 650 more that same day,

B. Recalling that these recent deaths follow a long list of killings of Palestinians, estimated at 669 from the beginning of the intifada in December 1987 until May 5, 1990,

C. Where as the blockade of all peace moves leaves the field open to extremists on all sides, as was shown by the attempted sea landing by a Palestinian commando from the PLF, which was thwarted on 30 May,

D. Concerned at the intention of the government of the state of Israel of encouraging the settlement of thousands of Jews from Eastern Europe in the occupied Palestinian territories,

E. Having regard to the recent statements by the Foreign Minister meeting in European Political Cooperation on the new Jewish settlement in the occupied territories,

F. Having regard to the positions adopted by the U.N. on this issue, as well as the proposals made by the chairman of the PLO, Yasser Arafat, at the latest sitting of the Security Council in Geneva on 25 May 1990,

G. Noting the persistent refusal of Israel to comply with the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 on civilian population under occupation,

H. Whereas parliament has always recognised Israel's right to live within secure borders and in peace with its neighbours,

I. Whereas parliament has also defended the rights of the Palestinian people and its physical, economic and cultural integrity and has retained the right to help it create its own state,

J. Recalling its previous resolutions on this issue,

1. Calls for continued efforts to achieve a negotiated solution for just and lasting peace in the Middle East guaranteeing the security and inviolability of the borders of the state of Israel and of all the states of the region as well as the self-determination of the Palestinian people and its right to create a free and independent state and calls on all parties concerned to adopt a clear stance on this matter;

2. Condemns the government of the state of Israel for its bloody repression of Palestinian civilians and its repeated violations of human rights in Israel and the occupied territories, and insists that it put an immediate end to all acts of repression;

3. Condemns, from wherever it comes, any veiled appeal or open recourse to violence, such as the demonstration by Rabbi Kahane appealing for support for the murderer Ami Popper, which was authorised on 28 May by the Israeli Court of Justice, or the attempted sea landing by a Palestinian commando;

4. Calls on the commission to supply immediate medical and humanitarian aid to the victims;

5. Calls on the government of the state of Israel to halt immediately the immigration of settlers into the occupied territories;

6. Supports the proposal to send an international commission to the occupied territories to conduct an on-the-spot inquiry into human rights violations;

7. Calls on the foreign ministers meeting in European political cooperation, in view of their recent declarations on the fresh Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, to consider, in cooperation with the United Nations, the possibility of appointing observers to draw up a report on the need to send U.N. peace-keeping forces into the region and on human rights violations;

8. Calls for an immediate meeting of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, with a view to discussing the peace process and preparing an international conference on the Middle East;

9. Calls on the commission, council and foreign ministers meeting in EPC to consider and implement any measures capable of bringing international pressure to bear on the government of the state of Israel until such time as the rights of the Palestinian people are fully respected;

10. Calls on the governments of the member states to urge the U.N. to extend the UNRWA mandate to cover the security of all the peoples living in the territory occupied by Israel since June 1967;

11. Calls on the governments of the member states to send a permanent representative to East Jerusalem to assess the needs of the Palestinian people and to coordinate and monitor the use of aid granted by the European Community;

12. Instructs its president to forward this resolution to the commission, the council, the governments of the member states, the foreign ministers of the twelve, the U.N., the government of the state of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

War and Cuban withdrawal cripple Angola's health, social services

By Tony Smith
The Associated Press

VIANA, ANGOLA — Ragtag children marched around a burned-out truck, stopping now and then to point through locked gates at huge portraits of Che Guevara in a derelict camp where hundreds of Cuban soldiers once lived.

"Soldiers gone," Pedro said, shouldering a gnarled stick to imitate the Cubans. U.N. observers say 33,000 of the 50,000 Cuban soldiers in camps such as Viana have left for home since Angola and Cuba signed U.S.-brokered accords with South Africa in December 1988.

Unfortunately for children like Pedro and his friends, not only the soldiers are leaving.

Deprived of their military protectors, hundreds of Cuban doctors, nurses and teachers stationed in this southern African nation are leaving hospitals, health centres and schools already crippled by 15 years of civil war.

Western sources expect the last Cuban civilians to leave Angola by the end of next year, six months after all the soldiers have gone.

UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, says the war between the Marxist government and Jonas Savimbi's U.S.-supported rebels has taken the lives of more than 100,000 Angolans and maimed at least 20,000.

About 1.5 million, one-sixth of the population, have been displaced. Most of the refugees are women, children and old people.

Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, known as UNITA, claims more than 200,000 have died since fighting began shortly after the 300,000 Portuguese colonialists went home in 1975, leaving be-

hind virtually no trained medical staff or skilled workers.

Of the 738 qualified doctors now in Angola, 509 are foreigners, including 170 Cubans who have worked primarily in poorly equipped provincial health stations. Isidro Diez, Cuba's economic counselor in Luanda, the capital, said those isolated centres often were targets of rebel attack.

Diez said more than 500 Cuban teachers also were leaving.

"As our troops move north, the civilian workers go with them," he said. "It's normal. No country would leave their civilians unprotected."

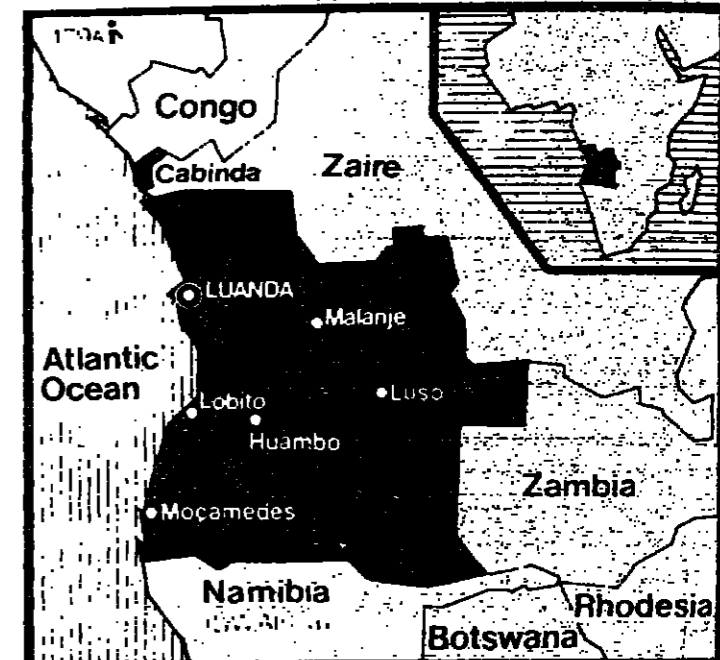
The U.N. Development Programme hopes to bring 24 doctors and paramedics to Angola in the next 18 months, mostly from Brazil, where Portuguese also is the national language. Otto Essien, who represents the agency, said a maximum of six doctors would arrive this year and more than 700 were needed.

"The problem is, the Cubans have gone to regions where others don't go," said Francine Matthis, Luanda coordinator for doctors Without Frontiers, a private European group that is helping manage health centres and hospitals.

She said the Cubans "don't do much training — they have enough to do filling the shoes of missing Angolan doctors — and that has created a sort of dependence."

Drugs also are short in the provinces. Medicines distributed by the inefficient centrally planned system often are lost, stolen or destroyed in rebel ambushes.

Another problem is a 4-year-old drought, which the United Nations says affects 800,000 people in four provinces of central and southern Angola. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar



has appealed for emergency food, medicine and funds.

Bie, a war-torn province in the central Highlands, has only one doctor for each 49,714 inhabitants, and neighbouring Huambo has one midwife for every 123,527 people, according to health ministry figures.

Luanda has grown from 350,000 people at the start of the war to more than 1.5 million, many of whom live in shanty towns, and has only one civilian hospital. The other, Americo Boavista, is the country's largest but is undergoing a two-year renovation.

Morale among overworked Angolan medical personnel is low.

Leading doctors earn the equivalent of \$860 a month at the official exchange rate, which equals only \$14 on the black market. During a cholera out-

break last year, doctors treated up to 100 cases a day in Luanda alone.

At the Kwzola orphanage, home to 163 of Angola's estimated 40,000 war orphans, nine-year-old Raul was playing with a toy truck in a green-and-white fleet made from oil cans by Dani, the home's 12-year-old resident engineer.

Raul, who chattered happily with visitors, wants to become a pilot and fly to Namibia. Dani kept to himself, staring silently at the Mig Jet fighters landing at nearby Luanda airport.

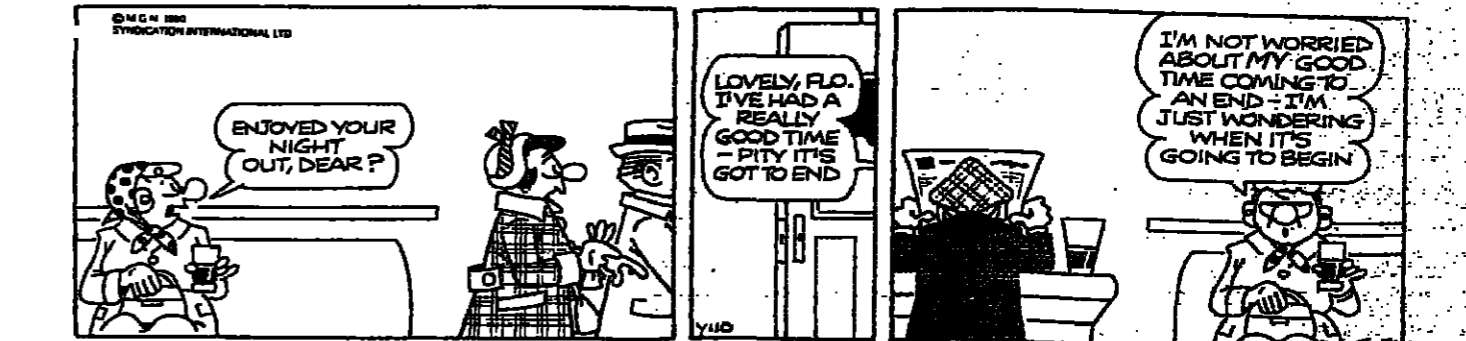
Concicao Almeida Dias, assistant director of the orphanage, said Dani was brought in by soldiers last year from Uige, a northern province where the rebels are strong.

"His parents were killed in the war, but we haven't been able to get anything else out of him," she said.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Suicides in Jordan — the unstudied story

By Saada Khrani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — There has been a gradual increase in the number of suicides in Jordan, and the phenomenon is rooted in several factors which are not different from any other part of the world, according to a research paper submitted to a recent symposium held in Amman.

The research paper, prepared by Dr. Waleed Sarhan, attributed suicides or suicide attempts to three major factors: "depression, alienation and loneliness combined with disappointments in life."

World statistics indicate that one in every 1,000 commit suicide every day and almost five times that figure attempt to commit suicide, according to Dr. Sarhan. Although Jordanian statistics are nowhere near this figure, there has been a gradual increase in suicides in

the Kingdom over the past 10 years as indicated by the Public Security Department (PSD), the researcher said in his paper, which was presented to and reviewed by a symposium on "Crime and Society" held in Amman last week.

Most of those who succeed or try to commit suicide are youngsters, single or divorcees, Dr. Sarhan said. One feature of the phenomenon is that almost all leave suicide notes behind, he said.

"I don't know to whom I must address this letter nor to whom I am going to say goodbye after my death; the most beloved ones to me are my parents and yet they are the cause of my distress and sadness," Dr. Sarhan quoted a suicide note as saying.

"I was a student in one of the high schools but was dismissed after my father divorced my mother. My father and my mother married again

and their partners treated me badly and no one ever listened to me. I would have loved to continue my life under their protection and love but I decided to move to another world where I will not find such treatment... God forgive them for what they did to me," the note said, according to Dr. Sarhan.

Most suicide notes reflect feelings of depression, loneliness and alienation, according to the analysis of Dr. Sarhan. They also express total submission to miseries and despair over situations from which there is little hope of escape, he said. This feeling, however, does not contradict the fact that most of those who commit suicide suffered from psychological problems at some points in their lives. At the same time, studies also indicate that 71 per cent of suicide cases were not directly linked with any past problems. Researchers believe

that this is due to situations whereby psychological problems were either not discovered or were discovered but not addressed. "In our society, psychological problems are still unknown and unadmitted by many," said Dr. Sarhan.

Almost all suicide notes found in Jordan referred to problems ranging from family conflicts to solitude and failure at work or financial difficulties.

Yet, a survey conducted in Jordan on some suicide cases show different results from international statistics and trends. The number of women who commit suicide in Jordan, for example, exceed that of men between the ages 18 to 38; perhaps that is due to the women's status in society and pressure applied on women socially and psychologically according to Dr. Sarhan.

Another common feature apparent from suicide studies in Jordan is the violent

methods used to end lives. The common methods include use of firearms or sharp instruments or by hanging or burning themselves, seen to be very effective and quick methods to end their lives, with expectations to find peace and tranquility in the other world.

The difficult economic situation, social repression and other pressures placed on the individual are the basic factors that prompt the individual to end his or her life. In Jordan, according to Sarhan, no effective studies have been carried out in the field of psychology nor has there been any real statistics that demonstrate the actual suicidal figures to determine cases of attempted suicide and the number of actual suicide cases.

This may be due to the fact that there is no real interest or that people do not basically admit their psychological problems.



One of thousands of Vietnamese students and guest workers who fled to West Germany when the communist East Berlin regime collapsed, Le H Anh is redirecting her life (WNL).

Caught in the storm From Hanoi to Berlin

By Tom Porzous

BERLIN (WNL) — When Le Hoang Anh (not her real name) left Hanoi to study in East Berlin six years ago, she was glad to have the chance to get away from Vietnam and see a new world. She never expected to witness the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe, or experience the dramatic upheaval it created in her personal life.

The past months have been exciting ones for the 25-year-old student of Marxist political economy and the tens of thousands of Vietnamese either working or studying in Eastern Europe. On Nov. 9, Le was among the huge crowd of Berliners and other Germans who streamed through the Berlin Wall when it was suddenly opened to all. "At the time I wasn't sure whether to stay in West Berlin or to go back," says Le. "In the end I decided to go back to East Berlin and think about it. I had to consider my family back in Hanoi."

By Jan. 27, an important feast day for the Vietnamese, Le had made up her mind to leave. "I had written to my family, but had got no answer," she said. "Now I had to think about my own future."

This time it was more difficult to cross the Berlin Wall. The border police were again checking passports, and Le's did not allow her to leave East Germany. But gone were the days when people trying to cross the wall illegally were shot at by the ferociously well-trained border guards. Le made her way from her cramped student dormitory in East Berlin to the Brandenburg Gate, the famous symbol of German Unity next to the Berlin Wall. She waited until there were no police patrols in sight, then slipped through one of the many holes that souvenir hunters have made in the wall since November.

Within an hour she was celebrating with a group of friends and relatives in West Berlin. Today

she is staying in a home for asylum seekers, waiting for the refugee papers that will allow her to apply to a university in the West or to obtain work.

Coming from Vietnam, Le is no stranger to political turbulence. The past months in Berlin have been nothing compared to her childhood in Hanoi. Le remembers the American aerial bombardments when she attended grade school back home, and she remembers the painful family separations caused by the Vietnam war and the partition of her country.

Many years ago Le's father studied in China, returned to Vietnam a convinced communist and fought in Indochina's war of independence against the French. "But my mother's father was a big landowner, an enemy of the communists," she recalls. "In the next war, the Vietnam War, my uncle fought for the Saigon regime against the communists."

Le left Vietnam in 1983. The country had been at peace for close to a decade, but she was pleased to have the chance to get away. "I hardly ever feel homesick," she admits. "I miss my family of course, but otherwise there is little about Hanoi that I miss. It is a very drab and dirty city, with lots of noise and dust."

Now Le has become quite the independent-minded young woman — very different, one suspects, from the wide-eyed 18-year-old who arrived in East Berlin to find that there was no one at the airport to meet her. She spent her first night in Europe at the airport lounge, hungry, tired and feeling very alien to her surroundings.

There followed six years of hard work, first learning German and then studying Marxist political economy — a subject she now criticises with virulence, blaming the system for the collapse of the Vietnamese and East German economies.

"Marx's pure theory may seem logical enough," says Le reflectively. "But in practice it doesn't work. It's wrong."

she came to West Berlin. Le she has read a lot of book available in the East. But conclusions about Marxism come from firsthand experience.

During the summer holidays and her fellow students' summer she was pressing buttons and pulling levers on machines in a metal-furniture factory. "Industry in the German Democratic Republic is backward compared to the West," she says with found wisdom.

In addition to Vietnamese students such as Le, there are 6 Vietnamese workers in East many. Although the working conditions and pay are not too the Vietnamese workers are able to remit money to families back home. The German mark in which the paid is not convertible and can be sent out of the country, guest workers send parcels to their families instead, but often don't reach their destination.

Vietnamese can be seen over the country, working railways and construction and in factories. In recent the East German planned economy has come to rely more on guest workers to replace the growing numbers of Germans leaving for the West. With German reunification looming closer everyday, the fate these guest workers is uncertain.

"We followed these developments on Western television recalls Le. "We discussed and decided that if, when the walls came down, the present from the communist tries to the West and no other way round, then the must have no homes and no must have a better system."

Now Le has become a star in support of her own theory is just one of some 6,000 names who have jumped over through the Berlin Wall

Too many people on too small an Earth

By a U.N. correspondent

PRESIDENT Bush's prediction that there would be United States astronauts on Mars within 30 years is the latest indication that the 21st century could mark the beginning of extra-terrestrial colonisation.

According to some of the more pessimistic experts, there may be no option because mankind is rapidly making its own planet, Earth, uninhabitable by its progressive degradation of the global environment.

While some of this pollution may only be too apparent, other forms are not so obvious and therefore not so widely appreciated. One which is causing increasing concern here at the United Nations and elsewhere is the continuing growth in world population and its inevitable repercussions.

The world body's awareness of the dangers of over-population is not new. As far back as 1967, this led to the creation of what was to become the U.N. Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), whose latest report warns that the global total is now increasing faster than ever.

With about 250,000 births a day, says the UNFPA, the world's current population of 5.3 billion would grow by between 90 and 100 million a year over the next decade. Consequently, by the end of the century, there would be the equivalent of another China, the world's most populous nation.

Introducing the report, the U.N. offshoot's Executive Director, Dr. Nafis Sadik, said that the coming decade would not only decide the shape of the next

century, but also possibly the future of the Earth as a habitation for humans.

"The world's population may treble or merely double during the next century largely as a result of the decisions we make now," she added.

"The choice must be to act decisively to slow down population growth, attack poverty and protect the environment. The alternative is to hand on to our children a poisoned chalice."

Dr. Sadik was closely associated with family planning efforts in her native Pakistan before joining UNFPA in 1971. Married with five children, two of whom are adopted, she has held her present post since the death of Rafael Salas three years ago.

1990s these changes will reach critical levels."

These included continuing urban growth, degradation of land and water resources, massive deforestation and the build-up of "greenhouse" gases.

Curbing population growth would therefore be a crucial part of any strategy of "sustainable development."

On a more optimistic note, UNFPA claims that family planning has gained considerable ground in the Third World.

About half the couples there were now practising some form of modern contraception as compared with only nine per cent in the early 1960s. But if China, where family planning was mandatory, were excluded, the proportion would drop to less than 40 per cent.

The campaign was also faltering, with about 34 per cent of fertile women in South Asia now practising modern contraception, and only 14 per cent in Africa. Over the last three decades the average number of children born to each fertile woman had fallen from six to 3.9. But it was proving more difficult to reduce it further to two as this needed a deeper change in desired family size.

And while in 1978 only 45 governments considered their population growth rates to be too high, the figure had now risen to 67, accounting for 85 per cent of the global population — Lion features.

The world's current population of 5.3 billion would grow by between 90 and 100 million a year over the next decade.

Estimates in the mid-1980s that the world's population would stabilise at around ten billion by the end of the next century have proved to be over-optimistic, the report states.

The figure was now more likely to be about 11.3 billion — and without greater efforts to control the growth, it might reach around 14 billion. And the problem was not in the industrialised world but in developing countries.

Populations were growing especially rapidly in Africa and South Asia, two regions least equipped to cope. "Fast population growth in poor countries has begun to make permanent changes to the environment," the report warns, "and during the



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TURKISH AIRLINES

Poor people, affluent armies

LONDON — As industrialised nations focus their attention on peace and disarmament, a similar peace process must also start in the developing countries, says the Human Development Report published for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Military spending in the Third World causes greater damage because it involves sacrifice of basic necessities. Developing countries have eight times more soldiers than physicians and the ratio of soldiers to teachers in some cases is as high as 5 to 1.

Arms imports by developing countries skyrocketed from only one billion dollars in 1960 to nearly \$35 billion by 1987. Three-quarters of the global arms trade involves exports to developing countries. Some of the poorest and least developed countries spend far more on their military than on their education and health.

The report, written by a team of independent experts, says that significant reduction in military spending is necessary if poor countries are to extend basic facilities to their people. During the last 30 years, annual military expenditures of the developing nations increased about three times faster than in the industrialised countries, although their average per capita income is only six per cent of that in the industrial world.

Governments in some developing countries are swamped by lobbyists and



Figures for military spending stand in stark contrast with statistics for human deprivation

offers they can't resist — including illegal gratuities. As a result, decision makers readily divert resources from schools to fighter planes. "In some countries," says the report, "education and health expenditures were cut but military expenditures actually rose. Obviously, the poverty of their economies was no barrier to the affluence of their armies."

Mahbub Ul Haq, former Minister of Finance and Planning of Pakistan, who headed the team commissioned to prepare the Human Development Report, believes that reduction in military spending is crucial if funds available for human development are to be increased. This may well become possible in the changed international climate of the 1990s, he says. The military budget of just one superpower is twice as much as the total military expenditure of the entire developing world, currently estimated at \$200 billion. "Rich nations," Haq says, "can increase aid for poor countries after cutting military spending. Poor countries must also spend more on health, nutrition, schooling and economic growth than on weapons."

Figures for military spending stand in stark contrast with statistics for human deprivation. The report notes that more than a billion people live in absolute poverty, 800 million have no homes and 1 million adults are unable to read or write.

The report recommends that a proper balance between military and social expenditures should become a legitimate area of concern a negotiation between donors and recipients of assistance the coming decade report.

Move expected soon to liquidate Petra Bank and set up new entity

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A decision to liquidate the financially-troubled Petra Bank in its present form and establish a new banking entity in its place is expected to be announced soon, perhaps as early as this week, according to informed sources.

The proposal to liquidate the bank, which was taken over by the government's Economic Security Committee (ESC) in August, was one of four possible plans presented to the Prime Minister by the bank's management committee in consultation with other officials from the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and the Ministry of Finance, said a management source at the bank.

The expected liquidation preempts a merger between Petra Bank and the Jordan Gulf Bank, another bank taken over by the ESC also in August.

Public deposits at Petra Bank, estimated at around JD 130 million, "will be guaranteed, and depositors will not lose anything" under the envisaged change of status of the bank, said the source, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

Details were not immediately available on how the present

debts of Petra Bank would be handled or the expected capital of the proposed new institution. Several bank employees said their jobs were secured in that they would be employed by the new entity, which will be created simultaneously with the liquidation process.

Petra, which was rated as second biggest bank in Jordan at the peak of its operations, has been steadily losing money since its take-over. CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi has said. Although no accurate estimates are available of the loss incurred prior to the take-over, reports in Jordan and outside have suggested that the minimum figure could be \$500 million. Shareholders of both banks, each of which had JD 5 million in paid-up capital, have lost 100 per cent of their investments, according to Nabulsi. "This is not the full extent of the losses," he told reporters last month.

On Aug. 2, 1989, the date of the ESC take-over, Petra Bank had a total liability of JD 476 million and assets worth JD 297 million (of which a figure of JD 94 million could not be easily explained or specified), according to its books. Debts of the bank, if it was liquidated on the day of the take-over, would have exceeded

JD 455 million, according to information revealed at a recent seminar held in Amman on banking frauds and violations.

Of the total Petra Bank debts on the day of the take-over, JD 74 million were in CBJ deposits. JD 56 million in deposits from commercial banks and financial institutions other than guarantees, JD 74 million in customer deposits, JD 126 million direct obligations towards foreign banks, and JD 1 million in guarantees and letters of credits due to other banks. Since then, the government pumped money into the bank and has settled part of debts, but no precise figures are available.

According to the expected decision, the present management committee, which was appointed by the ESC to supervise the affairs of Petra Bank as well as the Jordan Gulf Bank pending their merger, will be dismantled and a new panel would be named to supervise the affairs of the Jordan Gulf Bank, the sources said. One of the possibilities that await the Jordan Gulf Bank is a merger with another bank.

The liquidation of Petra Bank does not mean an end to the scandal which rocked Jordanian banking with allegations of gross violations of banking practices

and foreign exchange regulations, dubious transactions without proper collaterals, misleading the authorities and embezzlement of funds.

A team of experts assisted by banking officials is continuing investigations into the management of Petra Bank prior to the take-over and the circumstances which led to the almost collapse of the bank under the chairmanship of Ahmad Chalabi, who left the country shortly after the take-over. "We have pretty thick files of about 70 cases," said a source close to the investigations. "However, it is premature to say how the cases will be handled by the martial law authorities," said the source.

Under a government decision announced late last year, all cases pertaining to Petra Bank prior to Aug. 2, 1989 would be tried by martial law authorities, under whose powers the ESC ordered the take-over of Petra Bank and the Jordan Gulf Bank. Senior officials have affirmed that the only case where martial law provisions will be applied is the Petra Bank affair. Martial law provisions, in force in the country since 1967, are frozen since February pending the enactment of substitute civil laws, which are now before the Lower House of Parliament.

Kuwait's oil workers to strike on Sunday

KUWAIT (R) — Hundreds of oil workers in Kuwait will begin an indefinite strike Sunday for better pay and working conditions, a senior union official said Saturday.

Salem Al Mary, assistant secretary of the Kuwait Union of Oil and Petrochemical Workers, told Reuters the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), the Gulf state's oil company, had not invited the union to negotiate an end to the dispute.

"We are going ahead with the strike," Al Mary said. "We shall not be going back to work until our demands are met." He said the strike would begin Sunday at 7 a.m. (0400 GMT). Union Secretary Saoud Al Agami confirmed the strike, originally planned to last one day, would be indefinite.

He added: "No one contact us so far today but we are waiting."

No KPC officials were immediately available for comment on Saturday, which

together with Friday is the KPC's weekend.

The KPC had earlier termed the strike illegal.

A KPC official told Reuters Friday the strike would not affect Kuwait's oil and petrochemical industries, the backbone of the country's economy.

"Production and exports will continue as normal. We have taken all measures against the strike however long it is and its effects will be nil," the official said.

Al Mary gave no explanation for the decision to turn the planned 24-hour work stoppage into an open-ended one. Kuwait produces about 1.9 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil and has a population of about 1.7 million people.

It was not clear how many workers would part in the strike. The KPC has a workforce of about 16,000, nearly half of whom are non-Kuwaitis and not union members.

Trump to forego debt payments

NEW YORK (R) — The severity of Donald Trump's cash crunch became clear Friday when the once golden real estate and casino developer failed to pay out an estimated \$30 million in principal and interest to his bondholders.

Trump, who has been deeply involved in bank talks to resolve the crisis, missed the payments on two series of bonds issued on the Trump castle, the least profitable of his three casinos in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Analysts said Trump now has a 10- to 30-day grace period to make interest payments on the two debt issues before his company would be officially in default, threatening Trump's casino licences in Atlantic City.

If Trump does not make the payments within that time frame, bondholders could force him into involuntary bankruptcy. Bondholders could foreclose on the property since both issues are first mortgage bonds and are considered senior paper secured by the casino's assets.

The Trump Organisation — the group that oversees the multi-billion-dollar empire stretching from Palm Beach, Florida, to New York's Fifth Avenue — said it would make a \$16 million interest payment on the bonds from Trump Plaza, a second casino property it owns.

The Trump Organisation also said it was in ongoing negotiations with its lenders to obtain more financing and restructure some of its outstanding debt.

The Trump castle bonds amount to \$351 million part of an estimated \$1 billion in outstanding junk-bond (high-risk, high-yield) debt. Trump also has an estimated \$2 billion in bank loans.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JUNE 17, 1990
By Thomas S. Plerson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You can be far more direct than usual in letting others know what you have in mind but don't be preoccupied with your own projects that you neglect to listen to an associate's reaction.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Think in terms of those who think differently from you but who you would like to know better, contact and get better acquainted with them.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) If there is some concern of action you can take to better equip yourself to have more satisfactory practical benefits from others.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) It is necessary you listen more closely to understand the opinions of an associate if the two of you are to have a satisfactory relationship.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Showing a little more concern and regard for those who work side-by-side with you will make your alliance more productive of good results.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You would be wise now to add some attractive features to whatever your special aptitudes are in that event they can be put across better.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Think about various improvements that can be made at your dwelling and find out the prices

and necessary labour required to make them a reality.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You now have a day to project your thoughts and views to others, and only need to be sure you do so in friendly manner to get big results.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) It is an opportune time for you to consider the best ways by which you will be able to deal with those present assets and holdings that you now have.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Make sure that you know exactly what you want of a personal nature before you put a lot of effort out, then are disappointed in the results.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Think over that confidential arrangements you want with another person and then unite to gain with each one knowing what duties require.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your natural gregarious nature can best express itself by seeing and being with good friends during every spare moment and pleasing them.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A good day to put your best effort in showing that you can do a very good job at your vocational activities and be a good citizen as well.

Poehl's two-speed autobahn — heresy to some, reality to others

By Greg McCune
Reuter

BRUSSELS — Heresy, say some European Community (EC) politicians, reality, say central bankers and independent economists.

They were reacting to a suggestion by Karl Otto Poehl, head of West Germany's powerful Bundesbank, that a core of EC members might force monetary union before the rest.

Using his platform as chairman of the EC central bank governor's committee, Poehl said in Luxembourg Monday that a "hard core" of EC members — France, West Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg — could join ahead of others in a common EC central banking system, which some would call Eurofed.

Monetary experts said Poehl was expressing a strong current of opinion among central bankers and independent economists that the best practical way to get from 12 currencies to one is to start with those economies already closely aligned.

The head of the EC's influential monetary committee, Italy's Mario Sarcinelli, told EC finance ministers in Luxembourg Monday much the same story as Poehl, though his language was more diplomatic.

It would be better if the EC's 12 members moved as one, Sarcinelli was quoted as saying, but a two-speed monetary union could not be ruled out. The monetary committee groups deputy central bankers and finance ministry officials from the 12.

"The road to monetary union will have several lanes in which the traffic proceeds at different speeds," London brokers Shearson Lehman Hutton concluded in a recent analysis.

Poehl was careful in his comments Monday to say that all 12 member states would be invited to join the new system.

But his views rang alarm bells in Britain, where there are doubts about the whole idea of monetary union, and in poorer countries that are worried they might be left behind.

Both British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey rejected a two-speed European monetary union.

"It's contrary to the whole philosophy of the community at the present time," Haughey said during a visit to the Hague Tuesday.

Three groups

But for Poehl the question is a practical one. Those with low inflation rates will go in the past lane of Europe's monetary autobahn. This, along with politics, monetary experts said, could divide the community into three groups:

— Those ready and willing, such as West Germany, France, the Benelux countries and perhaps Denmark. Poehl recalled there had been substantial progress in narrowing inflation differences within this core group. The European Commission this week forecast 1990 inflation in the group will range from a low of 2.3 per cent in the Netherlands to 3.5

per cent in Luxembourg.

All of the core group keep currency fluctuations within a range of 2.25 per cent either side of a central rate in the European monetary system's exchange rate mechanism (ERM). The Benelux have gone further by pegging their currencies to the West German mark.

— Those willing but not ready. Poehl said Italy, which was an original member of the ERM but has a higher inflation rate of about six per cent, would have to get its rate down first.

The more serious problem is when the poorer countries on the rim of the community could join — Spain, Greece, Portugal and Ireland. There is debate whether the poorest of the poor, Portugal and Greece, which are not ERM members, would benefit by subjecting themselves to a pan-European version of the Bundesbank's anti-inflation policy.

These countries need to grow quickly and spend public money on badly needed infrastructure to narrow the gap with their rich partners in northern Europe. A staunch European policy aimed at price stability might put a brake on growth.

— The commission sees Greece's inflation rate reaching 17 per cent this year and Portugal's 11.7 per cent.

— Those neither ready nor willing. No one doubts that Britain, with its highly developed economy and financial system, would be a boon to a common system. But its inflation rate — even judging by an EC forecast lower than London's — will be 6.6 per cent in 1990.

Bahrain's budget deficit narrows

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain's budget deficit narrowed by 31.7 per cent to \$8 million dollars (\$154 million) in 1989 on higher oil revenues during the year, official figures showed.

The Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) said in its annual report, government revenues climbed 9.1 per cent to \$38 million dollars (\$1.165 billion) while expenditure rose 2.9 per cent to \$46 million dollars (\$1.319 billion).

The 1988 deficit was \$4.9 million dollars (\$255 million), nearly 17 times greater than the previous year.

Economists say firmer crude prices and increased business confidence in the wake of a 1988 ceasefire in the eight-year war between Iran and Iraq is fuelling an upturn in the oil-dependent economies of Bahrain and other Gulf states.

The BMA did not give growth figures. Statistics compiled by Gulf International Bank in January predicted Bahrain's gross domestic product (GDP) would grow by 2.5 per cent during 1989 compared with two per cent in 1988.

Bahrain's trade deficit widened by 42 per cent to \$7.2 million dollars (\$258 million) in 1989 despite higher income from oil exports, the BMA said.

This was fuelled by a 13 per cent jump in non-oil imports — mainly machinery, manufactured goods, and chemicals — to \$53.3 million dollars (\$1.74 billion) during the year.

"It is not surprising the trade deficit is bigger — people are importing, consuming and investing more," one Gulf-based economist said.

Bahrain's inflation rate rose 1.5 per cent during 1989, reversing four successive years of declines, the BMA said.

The island's oil trade surplus jumped 15.5 per cent to \$33.8 million dollars (\$888 million) in 1989.

Bahrain buys most of the crude for its 250,000 barrel per day refinery from Saudi Arabia. Its own reserves are expected to run out by the turn of the century unless new oil is discovered offshore during current exploration.

Non-oil exports edged up 1.7 per cent to \$22.3 million dollars (\$391 million) in 1989.

The BMA said Bahrain's balance of payments narrowed by 16.5 per cent to \$50.7 million dollars (\$401 million). It did not give a complete breakdown of accounts.

Officials say Saudi Arabia and Kuwait grant Bahrain 37.5 million dollars (\$100 million) a year to help cover its budget deficit.

Jordan Times

Tel: 667171-6

British dealers learn respect for the future

By John Speck
Reuter

LONDON — British share dealers have learnt a telling lesson — respect for the future.

Shares have rocketed in London over the past month and the Financial Times-Stock Exchange futures contract has often triggered the move ahead.

The FTSE futures contract is based on the FTSE-100 index which charts the prices of 100 leading stocks and is a vehicle for speculating on where the FTSE will stand at a future date.

How the futures contract opens can send tremors through the FTSE 100 stocks because assessments of their future worth will trigger buying or selling of the shares themselves.

Stock market dealers still say the future moving the market is like a tail wagging a dog, but dealers in FTSE futures prefer to think of themselves as leading the dog.

"Volume in the FTSE futures market has been growing sharply and will continue to expand," says Fiona Morrison, a stock index futures broker at futures and options house GNI Limited.

As well as being an effective

way of hedging against risk, futures trading is quick and cheap, dealers say.

The volume of FTSE contracts has hit 17,000 a day in recent hectic sessions compared with an average daily volume of 5,500 over the last six months to a year.

GNI's Morrison says daily FTSE futures volume could jump to between 20,000 and 25,000 by the year-end, as tax changes on trading in stock-market related products take effect.

On Tuesday LIFFE, the London International Finance Futures Exchange, said FTSE 100 futures contract volume hit a record 138,003 contracts in May, up 51 per cent since April and 12 per cent above the previous record 122,970 traded in October 1989.

One quiet May morning saw dealers putting prices on screens around 0700 to 0730 GMT, when the June FTSE future opened at a 60 point premium to the actual stock market index against a normal 20 to 25 gap — opening the chance for arbitrageurs whose job it is to exploit differences between one market and another.

Panic broke out. Market makers — short of stock themselves — bought on the stock market, driving

prices higher toward those on futures.

The futures market is a means of hedging against risk and dealing in futures is a judgment on the direction in which the FTSE 100 index, referred to in the markets as the cash index, is headed.

A June FTSE futures contract bought at 2,300 points which rises to 2,400 by the expiration date is worth \$25 pounds (\$42) per a point to an investor, a profit of 2,500 pounds (\$42,000) in total.

Losses accrue at the same rate. The value of FTSE contract mirrors the cash FTSE index. On a FTSE of 2,400, the June future would be valued at around \$60,000 (\$100,000) says Brendan Bradley, senior options analyst at LIFFE.

Attraction

One attraction is the small amount of money one has to lodge to buy a contract, just £2,500 (\$4,200).

"The low margin means many people find FTSE futures more attractive than shares," says Randal Goldsmith, equity analyst at James Capel.

"A lot of institutions who hadn't used it for this purpose before are starting to," says LIFFE's Phillips.

Third World risks losing investment

BONN (R) — Reforms sweeping Eastern Europe will divert investment away from developing countries and force Third World governments to revamp their economic systems, the president of the World Bank said Wednesday.

"They (developing nations) must work harder to attract investments or money will go to Eastern Europe," Barber Conable told a news briefing.

The World Bank, the world's most important multilateral development agency, lent \$23 billion last year.

But Conable stressed that the private sector was crucial for providing cash to modernise Third World economies.

"And this goes where the most attractive opportunities are," he said. The World Bank has consistently argued against Third World nations running centrally planned economies which discourage private investment.

Conable said the bank was not turning its back on the poorer regions like Africa. But he said it had a global responsibility.

"Eastern Europe is as entitled to participate in (the bank's activities) as any other part of the world."

Tuesday, at a meeting of West German industrialists, Conable said the World Bank expected to lend \$7.5 billion to Eastern Europe over the next three years.

Included in this amount is at least \$2.5 billion to Poland and about the same amount to Hungary and Yugoslavia. Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia have also recently applied for membership of the World Bank and Conable told reporters they would join by September when the bank holds its annual meeting.

But these additional members would not force a cut in the bank's commitment to the world's poorest countries. Loan volume has grown 10 per cent annually in recent years and this could continue as additional needs arose, he said.

He welcomed the newly created European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), viewing it as an ally and not a competitor. The World Bank already works closely with a number of other regional development banks.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, June 16, 1990			
Central Bank official rates			
U.S. dollar	Buy	668.0	672.0
Pound Sterling	Sell	1141.2	1148.0
Deutschemark	Buy	395.3	397.7
Swiss franc	Buy	465.5	468.3
French franc	Buy	117.5	118.2
Japanese yen (for 100)		433.8	436.4
Dutch guilder		351.1	353.2
Swedish crown		109.5	110.2
Italian lira (for 100)		53.9	54.2
Belgian franc (for 10)		192.0	193.2

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Seraglio
- 6 Sovereignty in India
- 9 Unsettled
- 12 FL city
- 13 Uncertain
- 15 Fuss
- 16 Porcine purchase?
- 18 Gallantry?
- 19 Copy overloads for short
- 20 Summit
- 21 Agree
- 23 Roman road
- 24 Caroline
- 25 Neck features
- 27 Betting profits
- 31 Short story
- 32 — and hearty
- 33 Saw heroine
- 34 Portnoy's creator
- 35 Engaged in "stuffs"
- 36 Indige
- 37 Sailor's word
- 38 Employ
- 39 Play section
- 40 Headed
- 42 Tiff
- 43 Rip to pieces
- 44 Carbon deposit
- 45 Member of
- 46 Hemlock race
- 48 Pelt down
- 49 Burro
- 50 Iron metals
- 53 Suspects something
- 56 Domino
- 57 Sharpen
- 58 Scarlett
- 59 Tavern drink
- 60 DeLuise
- 61 Moroccan city

DOWN

- 1 Aspire
- 2 Amino —
- 3 Frown —
- 4 Vale man
- 5 Endangered marine mammal
- 6 More mature
- 7 "Crazy" like
- 8 Presidential monogram
- 9 Wales e.g.
- 10 Norse god
- 11 Blow a horn
- 14 Longed
- 15 "more than one way" (twain)
- 17 Minors
- 20 Bright star
- 23 Snake — (traitor)
- 24 Flooding
- 25 Money
- 26 Bet
- 27 Grew larger
- 28 Musical group
- 29 Broad smiles
- 30 Vandillon
- 31 Churchill one
- 32 Watered down
- 35 Mafia gloom
- 36 Gambling
- 39 TV advertiser
- 41 Conger
- 42 Stead
- 43 Earth
- 44 Witch town?
- 45 Davenport
- 46 Of the mouth
- 47 Apportion
- 48 Gambling town
- 49 Teasdale
- 51 Best e.g.
- 54 Up-to-date
- 55 Hear, heart

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

Across: 1. Seraglio, 6. Sovereignty in India, 9. Unsettled, 12. FL city, 13. Uncertain, 15. Fuss, 16. Porcine purchase?, 18. Gallantry?, 19. Copy overloads for short, 20. Summit, 21. Agree, 23. Roman road, 24. Caroline, 25. Neck features, 27. Betting profits, 31. Short story, 32. — and hearty, 33. Saw heroine, 34. Portnoy's creator, 35. Engaged in "stuffs", 36. Indige, 37. Sailor's word, 38. Employ, 39. Play section, 40. Headed, 42. Tiff, 43. Rip to pieces, 44. Carbon deposit, 45. Member of, 46. Hemlock race, 48. Pelt down, 49. Burro, 50. Iron metals, 53. Suspects something, 56. Domino, 57. Sharpen, 58. Scarlett, 59. Tavern drink, 60. DeLuise, 61. Moroccan city.

Down: 1. Aspire, 2. Amino —, 3. Frown —, 4. Vale man, 5. Endangered marine mammal, 6. More mature, 7. "Crazy" like, 8. Presidential monogram, 9. Wales e.g., 10. Norse god, 11. Blow a horn, 14. Longed, 15. "more than one way" (twain), 17. Minors, 20. Bright star, 23. Snake — (traitor), 24. Flooding, 25. Money, 26. Bet, 27. Grew larger, 28. Musical group, 29. Broad smiles, 30. Vandillon, 31. Churchill one, 32. Watered down, 35. Mafia gloom, 36. Gambling, 39. TV advertiser, 41. Conger, 42. Stead, 43. Earth, 44. Witch town?, 45. Davenport, 46. Of the mouth, 47. Apportion, 48. Gambling town, 49. Teasdale, 51. Best e.g., 54. Up-to-date, 55. Hear, heart.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HARRIS-5-16

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lie

Unscramble these four Jumbles — one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ROPEA
DUGEN
TAJUNY
GLYFAD

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: " " " " " "

Yesterday's Jumble: FORGO BRAIN MANIAC OPATE

Answer: Where did the old lady who lived in a shoe send her kids when they grew up? — TO "ROOT" CAMP

LA SEMAINE DE ...

Suleiman Sweiss

Demain... la guerre

Lundi dernier, le gouvernement israélien d'extrême droite formé par Yitzhak Shamir a obtenu la confiance du Parlement. Après six ans de gouvernement de coalition avec le parti travailliste, le leader du Likoud dirige le pays pour la première fois avec une équipe d'extrémistes (Sharon, Arens, David Levy etc.).



Le «programme» du nouveau gouvernement se résume en trois points: 1) absorber le maximum d'immigrés juifs soviétiques dans les territoires occupés, 2) écraser l'intifada et 3) refuser tout dialogue avec l'Organisation de Libération de la Palestine (OLP).

Est-il étonnant que les principaux gouvernements arabes voient dans ce programme, annoncé peu après le vote de confiance, une véritable déclaration de guerre? Le lendemain, Yitzhak Shamir parlait de «nages noirs» dans le ciel du Proche-Orient. S.M. le roi Hussein l'a confirmé devant les journalistes français: «La Jordanie traverse l'étape la plus dangereuse de son histoire moderne». Quant au président syrien Hafez El-Assad, il déclarait il y a quelques jours devant le nouveau parlement syrien qu'«Arabes et Israéliens pourraient provoquer des désastres humains». Déception et frustration, voilà ce que ressentent les dirigeants arabes.

Que veulent les dirigeants israéliens au juste? Il n'est pas impossible qu'ils réclament demain «leur part» du pétrole arabe, qu'ils contribuent à l'établissement de nouvelles colonies en territoires palestiniens occupés et qu'ils tuent tout Palestinien qui refuserait de se soumettre aux boîtes de Shamir, Sharon ou d'autre dirigeant d'extrême droite de Tel Aviv! A côté de cela... les arabes sont des agresseurs, antisémites, terroristes etc...

La politique israélienne se nourrit en fait de deux sources: la politique américaine qui se limite à des pressions verbales timides pour infléchir les dirigeants israéliens, et la faiblesse des régimes arabes, avec le refus de la plupart d'entre eux de construire une force militaire arabe qui épaulerait les efforts diplomatiques.

L'invasion du Liban par les troupes israéliennes de l'été 1982 - quelques années après les accords israélo-égyptiens de Camp David - était, à elle seule, une leçon suffisante: les dirigeants israéliens n'accepteront que «la paix des esclaves» avec les Arabes. Une paix honorable est diamétralement opposée aux visées expansionnistes de ces dirigeants.

Où va la région? Si on observe les développements politiques, tant sur le plan officiel que sur le plan populaire, il n'est pas difficile de constater que la tendance générale est à l'extrémisme. On a l'impression que «l'heure de vérité» approche et que les peuples arabes n'ont plus aucun moyen pour se défendre que d'utiliser les forces dont ils disposent. Cela a déjà commencé en Irak et dans d'autres pays arabes.

L'appel au boycott des marchandises américaines gagne du terrain en Jordanie. Celle-ci cherche de plus en plus le soutien des pays arabes. Lors des manifestations populaires du mois dernier on a pu entendre des slogans dénonçant le défilé arabe et présentant les dirigeants américains comme des ennemis, au même titre que les israéliens.

Est-il difficile de constater que la région va vers une guerre, que déclencheur «comme d'habitude» l'armée israélienne pour occuper de nouveaux territoires afin d'y installer de nouveaux immigrants?

Certains observateurs sont pessimistes et ils annoncent un été proche-oriental très très chaud. Il est vrai que les pays européens sont las de ce conflit qui dure depuis très longtemps. Mais que faire si la communauté des pays occidentaux continue à croire qu'Israël est la base solide qui leur permettra de protéger leurs intérêts dans la région? Les États-Unis en particulier ne changeront leur politique que s'ils jugent leurs intérêts menacés dans le monde arabe.

Il est temps que les dirigeants arabes réagissent conformément aux intérêts de leurs peuples. Peut-être sera-t-il trop tard dans quelques années!

Hausse du prix des médicaments

La Jordanie redécouvre les plantes

Vingt-cinq herboristes sont autorisés à vendre des plantes médicinales en Jordanie. Avec la crise économique et la hausse du prix des médicaments, leurs affaires sont... florissantes. Les autorités en-

Une herbe pour chaque maladie, tel est le traitement que prescrit un herboriste jordanien aux patients qui viennent le consulter après avoir désespéré de guérir par le biais des médicaments indiqués par leurs médecins.

De la camomille pour calmer les intestins, de la mélisse utilisée comme tranquillisant, de l'anémone pour faciliter la digestion, du sureau pour le traitement des maladies rénales, et de la fraise pour purifier le sang, M. Ali Arar Ktaichate, ne tarit pas d'exemples sur le large éventail qu'offrent les herbes ou leur mélange pour remédier aux maladies de l'homme.

Propriétaire du plus grand magasin de vente d'herbes, situé au cœur du centre ville à Amman, où le client est attiré par l'odeur des herbes de tous genres exposées dans des bocaux placés en ordre sur des étagères ou dans des sacs en jute ouverts mais couverts de papier transparent pour éviter la poussière, M. Ktaichate affirme que pour lui «l'objectif n'est pas commercial mais scientifique».

La médecine «populaire», comme il l'appelle, est une «science sacrée» qui a prouvé son efficacité «à condition d'en éloigner les charlatans qui portent préjudice à la crédibilité de cette profession».

En l'absence de statistiques officielles, il existe selon lui près de 25 herboristes autorisés en Jordanie, mais rares sont ceux qui sont capables de réussir un mélange d'herbes ou d'agir avec conscience et suivant des critères scientifiques.

M. Mounib al-Saket, vice-doyen de la Faculté de Pharmacie à l'université jordanienne, indique à ce propos qu'il y a un effort actuel pour encourager le recours à la médecine populaire en Jordanie qui commence à enregistrer des adeptes en raison de la hausse de son efficacité et de la hausse des prix des médicaments.

«Mais pour assurer un usage scientifique des herbes, nous sommes en train de mettre au point, avec des experts des facultés de médecine et de pharmacie de l'université jordanienne notamment, un lexique sur les genres d'herbes qui existent en Jordanie, définissant leur nature et les éléments qui la composent», précise-t-il.

M. Saket ajoute qu'un comité pour les herbes a par ailleurs été constitué par le ministère de la Santé groupant des représentants de ce ministère et de ces deux facultés afin d'examiner les

compositions d'herbes en Jordanie, notamment celles présentées par les herboristes et de se prononcer sur leur validité en vue d'autoriser leur usage.

Convaincu du bien fondé de la médecine populaire, M. Saket a souligné que l'objectif est d'arriver à élaborer une législation pour organiser cette profession de manière à «encourager les spécialistes capables et à en éloigner les charlatans».

Si non, le recours à la médecine des herbes devient dangereux, selon M. Ktaichate, qui affirme notamment «qu'un simple mauvais usage des herbes peut avoir un effet contraire au résultat escompté». Ainsi, boire une quantité excessive de camomille provoque des maux de tête au lieu de calmer les intestins.

Un de ses clients suit actuellement un traitement à base de pomade contre la calvitie. Abdel Mounsef, 28 ans, raconte qu'il était complètement chauve avant que ses cheveux ne commencent à pousser, grâce aux «bons soins» de M. Ktaichate et exhibe des photos prises avant et après le traitement. M. Ktaichate lui promet une chevelure abondante pour un proche avenir.

Outre le côté médical, des considérations financières aident à la propagation de cette médecine populaire en Jordanie, en raison notamment de la crise économique et de la hausse conséquente du prix des médicaments.

Le royaume a importé pour 32 millions de dollars de médicaments en 1989 dont la majorité sert à traiter des maladies simples comme les maux de tête, le rhume, la bronchite, selon Mme Maysa al-Saket, pharmacienne et chef de la section de contrôle des médicaments au ministère de la Santé.

«En recourant aux herbes, on économise beaucoup de devises au pays» en proie à une dette extérieure de 8,3 milliards de dollars, et on permet aux citoyens de se soigner à moindres frais, «le prix des herbes étant de loin plus abordable que les médicaments classiques» affirme-t-elle.

Mme al-Saket souligne que le ministère se penche sérieusement sur l'examen du traitement par les herbes, qui ne peut servir pour les maladies sérieuses, mais peut être bénéfique pour les maladies simples, afin d'en favoriser l'usage dans le pays.

Nabil Rached

couragent d'ailleurs cette évolution, car elle réduit les importations de médicaments. Bien utilisées, les plantes sont d'ailleurs aussi efficaces, mais attentions aux risques d'abus et aux charlatans.



Archéologie

Un site mystérieux livre enfin son secret

Bâtie au pied de Tivoli, en Italie, vers 130 après JC, la villa Adriana recèle un monument qui a toujours intrigué les archéologues. Un égyptologue français a peut-être percé le mystère de sa signification: il s'agirait d'une représentation miniature et symbolique du Nil et... du temps.

Une citerne, une grotte, un long canal s'ouvrant finalement en demi-cercle, strié lui-même de plusieurs petits canaux secondaires: le joyau de la villa que s'était fait bâtir l'empereur Hadrien, à Tivoli, laissait perplexes tous les spécialistes depuis des lustres.

C'est en étudiant les différentes statues implantées à l'origine sur le site, et aujourd'hui disséminées dans les musées d'Europe, que le professeur Grenier, de l'université de Montpellier, au sud de la France, a compris le sens de ce monument.

La série de statues qui longeait le grand canal représentait l'éveil du dieu Sérapis, le dieu introduit en Egypte par les Grecs pour instaurer un culte commun aux deux peuples. Dans une niche, une prêtresse ouvre la bouche du dieu, dans une autre elle sonne les sistres, dans une autre un prêtre apporte les offrandes, etc... Au fond de la grotte, un grand buste de la déesse égyptienne Isis, symbole de la fécondité et de la renaissance, trônait, juste au dessus du débouché de la citerne, sur une chute d'eau de 4 mètres.

Au bout du canal (dont on aura compris qu'il représente le Nil), sur le delta, huit grandes statues de marbre rouge, disposées en demi-cercle, représentaient l'image d'Antonin, le favori de l'empereur, sous les traits d'Osiris. Le bel Antonin s'était en effet noyé dans le Nil à Bésa, en 122 et avait été élevé au rang de divinité par l'empereur.

Ainsi, l'ensemble du monument devait être à la fois une sorte de carte gigantesque du Nil et une évocation du cycle de la mort et de la résurrection d'Antonin, mort en tant qu'homme pour être ressuscité sous forme de dieu.

Ce système hydraulique complexe, devait pour être fidèle à la représentation du cycle du temps, n'être déclenché que le 19 juillet 139 afin de coïncider avec un équivalent cosmique du calendrier égyptien.

Mais Hadrien mourut un an trop tôt, le 10 juillet 138, et la machinerie ne fut jamais mise en route. Voilà qui explique qu'on n'ait retrouvé aucune trace de dépôt aquatique dans la citerne-sourde.

L'ingéniosité et la passion de l'empereur fou d'Egypte auront en tout cas donné du fil à retordre aux archéologues, jusqu'à cette découverte française. (Avec agences)

EN BREF

Importations. Le ministre jordanien de l'agriculture, M. Suleiman Arabiyat, a autorisé lundi l'importation, pour une période de deux mois de certains produits agricoles à partir des territoires occupés. Cette mesure vise à «soutenir les agriculteurs de Cisjordanie et de la bande de Gaza, et à répondre aux besoins du marché jordanien». Depuis la rupture de ses liens juridiques et administratifs avec la Cisjordanie, le 31 juillet 1988, les produits agricoles des territoires occupés sont autorisés uniquement à transiter par le royaume en vue de leur exportation vers l'étranger.

Pénurie. L'eau pourrait être «la cause de la prochaine guerre au Moyen-Orient» a déclaré Mme Joyce Star, du Centre d'études stratégiques internationales de Washington et spécialiste des problèmes posés par la pénurie de l'eau dans le monde. Selon elle, suite à l'épuisement des réserves d'eau en Syrie, en Jordanie et en Israël, le déficit en eau de ces pays sera d'au moins 30% dans cinq ans. Partout ailleurs on essaye de régler le problème par la concertation et les contacts inter-régionaux. «Ce qui est grave, estime-t-elle, c'est que cette concertation n'existe pas au Moyen-Orient».

Avions. La compagnie aérienne Royal Jordanian a enregistré un bénéfice de 2,1 millions de dollars en 1989 après avoir perdu 131,4 millions de dollars l'année précédente. Les bénéfices de 1989 sont liés à la différence de change due à la dévaluation du dinar jordanien, à la réduction des frais opérationnels et à l'augmentation des tarifs de vol, de l'ordre de 48% depuis janvier 1989. Pour des raisons d'économie, la RJ a, par ailleurs, suspendu six de ses 44 lignes internationales, celles desservant Los Angeles, Miami, Chicago, Athènes, Copenhague et Bucarest.

Palestiniens. Un journaliste palestinien de Jérusalem-est, M. Haman Khoury, a été condamné jeudi par un tribunal militaire israélien à sept ans de prison, dont 45 mois de détention ferme et le reste avec sursis. M. Khoury a été reconnu coupable «d'appartenance à la direction planifiée du soulèvement populaire» dans les territoires occupés et d'avoir participé à la rédaction de communiqués de cette direction.

Israël. M. Robert Maxwell, un des magnats de la presse britannique, a annoncé jeudi, au cours d'une visite en Israël, qu'il projetait d'éditer un journal en langue russe, publié simultanément en Israël et en Union Soviétique. Ce journal sera notamment destiné aux nouveaux immigrants déjà installés en Israël, ainsi qu'à la communauté juive en URSS. L'ancien «refusenik» soviétique, Nathan Chitcharanski, installé depuis 1985 en Israël, a été pressenti pour prendre part à la direction du journal.

Liban. Le nonce apostolique au Liban, Mgr Pablo Puente, s'est heurté à Beyrouth-ouest (à majorité musulmane) à une fin de non-recevoir sur certains points de son initiative en vue d'une solution globale à la crise libanaise. Mgr Puente a rencontré les principaux dirigeants religieux et politiques résidant à Beyrouth-ouest, notamment le président Elias Hraoui et son premier ministre Salim Hoss. Il a essuyé plusieurs refus catégoriques sur sa proposition consistant à reconsidérer les accords de Taëf, paraffinés par la ligue arabe et sur la base duquel a été élu M. Hraoui.

Roumanie. Des milliers de mineurs montés à l'assaut de la capitale roumaine et l'armée revenue en force dans les rues de Bucarest, sont apparus jeudi comme les plus sûrs garants du régime du président Ion Iliescu face à une agitation persistante. Face à la faiblesse de la police, les mineurs de plusieurs bassins, notamment la vallée du Jiu (centre-ouest), se sont lancés dans une brutale chasse aux «golans» (voyous) qui avaient manifesté les jours précédents dans des émeutes qui ont fait 7 morts et 160 blessés.

Irangate. L'amiral John Poindexter, ancien conseiller de la maison blanche pour les affaires de sécurité, a été condamné lundi à six mois de prison ferme pour son rôle dans l'affaire de l'Irangate. M. Poindexter avait été reconnu coupable, en avril, de cinq chefs d'accusation, notamment de faux témoignage et d'obstruction à l'enquête du Congrès qui avait fait trembler la présidence de Ronald Reagan fin 1986, début 1987. Il risquait 25 ans de prison. L'amiral, aujourd'hui en retraite, est le premier des principaux personnages de l'Irangate à être condamné à une peine de prison ferme.

Terminal. Le contrat portant sur la reconstruction du terminal pétrolier iranien de Kharg, le plus grand du monde, pour un montant de 220 millions de dollars a été définitivement signé lundi à Téhéran par une société française. La quasi totalité des exportations pétrolières iraniennes transitent par ce terminal, qui a été bombardé une centaine de fois de 1980 à 1988 par l'aviation irakienne.

Voyage. Le président français, François Mitterrand, a réalisé la semaine dernière une tournée dans l'Océan indien, qui l'a conduit des Seychelles à Madagascar en passant par l'île Maurice et les Comores. Il a promis à Madagascar une remise de la dette publique malgache à l'égard de la France, ce qui représente un montant de quatre milliards de francs.

Carpentras. Les policiers français enquêtant sur la profanation du cimetière juif de Carpentras il y a un mois, pensent être sur la bonne piste après avoir interpellé lundi quatre jeunes gens de cette ville méridionale. Les suspects, dont deux sont âgés de moins de 18 ans, sont issus de la bourgeoisie aisée locale. Ils n'appartiennent pas au milieu des skinheads (jeunes au crâne rasé développant souvent une idéologie raciste) et feraient partie d'une bande qui avait coutume de se retrouver la nuit dans le cimetière pour y boire.

Littérature. L'Académie française a décerné jeudi son grand prix du roman à «White Spirits» de Paule Constant et le grand prix Paul-Morand à l'homme politique et écrivain Jean-François Deniau. «White Spirit» est une vision baroque et féroce de l'Afrique. Le dernier ouvrage de Jean-François Deniau, ancien ministre du commerce extérieur français s'intitule «l'empire nocturne».

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Jordan Times'

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

18 juin

L'Appel a quarante ans

L'année 1990 est celle du général De Gaulle. Marqué par un destin à chiffres ronds, le général est né il y a 100 ans, mort il y a vingt ans et a fait son entrée dans l'Histoire, il y aura 40 ans lundi. Le 18 juin 1940, il

Raide dans son uniforme, il paraît «immense», rapporte un témoin qui l'a vu franchir le seuil de la Radio-diffusion britannique, la BBC, ce 18 juin 1940. Fêle, tendu, il fixe le micro comme s'il voulait l'hypnotiser. Puis d'une voix forte, il lance sur les ondes les mots qui le font entrer dans l'Histoire: «Moi, général De Gaulle, j'invoque les officiers et soldats français...»

Sous-secrétaire d'Etat à la guerre dans le cabinet de Paul Reynaud, il n'occupe plus aucun poste officiel depuis le 16 juin, date à partir de laquelle le maréchal Pétain assume le pouvoir. Refusant la défaite à

prenait en effet le destin de la France en mains, en l'invitant à refuser la défaite prononcée par le Maréchal Pétain.

maines libres: «C'est une trahison», lance-t-il. Il écrit dans ses «Mémoires»: «Je pensais que c'en serait fini de l'honneur, de l'unité, de l'indépendance» (si la France capitulait). «Dans ce cas, le dégoût que le pays aurait de lui-même et celui qu'il inspirerait aux autres empoisonneraient son âme et sa vie pour de longues générations».

Rédaction

Alors, le Général s'isole dans le petit appartement de Seamount Place qu'un ami lui a prêté. Là, grillant cigarette sur cigarette, il rédige l'«Appel» aux Français. Churchill offre à l'homme qui entre en rébellion contre le gouvernement de son pays les antennes de la BBC. Soudain de remettre en selle l'allié défilé, le Premier ministre entend, dans l'immédiat, empêcher Hitler de s'emparer de la flotte française - la plus moderne du monde, la troisième pour le tonnage.

Quelle heure était-il lorsque le général commença son allocution au studio 4-B? Selon lui et selon de Courcel, il était 18 heures. A la direction de la BBC, on assure qu'il devait être aux alentours de 20h30. Les archives de la radio anglaise ont retenu 22 heures... Incertitude de l'Histoire! Celle-ci ne sera jamais tranchée car l'Appel du 18 juin ne fut pas enregistré «faute de moyens techniques» prétendent les responsables du studio.

Le ton qu'emploie le général est celui du chef s'adressant à ses soldats. Il les invite, où qu'ils se trouvent, à le rejoindre pour reprendre la lutte. Si la force mécanique des Allemands leur a permis de gagner une bataille, le même moyen permettra de les vaincre un jour, prophétise-t-il.

«L'espérance doit-elle disparaître? Non! Car la France n'est pas seule. Elle a un vaste empire derrière elle. Elle peut faire bloc avec l'empire britannique qui tient la mer. Elle peut utiliser sans limite l'immense industrie des Etats-Unis». Il lance enfin: «Quoi qu'il arrive, la flamme de

la résistance française ne doit pas s'éteindre et ne s'éteindra pas».

Basculement

Evénement plus tard cet instant historique, le Général écrit: «A mesure que s'envelopaient les mots irrévocables je sentais en moi-même se terminer une vie. A 49 ans, j'entraînais dans l'aventure... Une aventure qui commence par sa condamnation à mort prononcée, quelques jours plus tard, par le gouvernement Pétain contre «le général félon».

Nombreux sont ceux qui affirment avoir entendu l'Appel et y avoir répondu aussitôt. En réalité, ils sont très rares ceux qui ont pu «accrocher» Londres ce jour-là, sur leur TSE. Et beaucoup plus rares encore les ralliés à «l'homme du 18 juin», dans les semaines, dans les mois qui suivirent.

«Je n'étais rien au départ, écrit De Gaulle. A mes côtés, pas l'ombre d'une force ni d'une organisation. En France, aucun répondant et aucune notoriété. A l'étranger, ni crédit, ni justification».

Car alors, entre Pétain et De Gaulle, entre le vainqueur de Verdun au prestige immense et l'obscur général qui a ramassé les troupes du glaive, pour défer l'ennemi, la balance est terriblement inégale. La croix de Lorraine, emblème de la France libre sera longue, très longue à se dresser dans le ciel de la Résistance.

Le lendemain du 18 juin, dans sa maison de Paimpont, en Bretagne, une vieille dame qui s'éteindra quelques semaines plus tard, apprend de la bouche du curé, l'initiative de son fils: «Je reconnais Charles, dit-elle. C'est exactement ce qu'il fallait faire».

Pierre-Albert Lambert

En l'honneur de cet anniversaire, le Centre Culturel Français présentera lundi, dans le hall, un documentaire vidéo sur le général De Gaulle.



Fêle, tendu, De Gaulle fixe le micro comme s'il voulait l'hypnotiser.

Elections en Algérie

La victoire des Islamistes

Mardi dernier se sont déroulées les élections municipales et les élections aux assemblées populaires en Algérie. Les premières élections libres depuis l'indépendance du pays en 1962.

Elles se sont traduites par une très nette victoire du Front Islamique de Salut (FIS), au détriment du parti unique qui contrôlait le pays jusqu'ici, le FLN (Front de Libération Nationale).

A l'issue des municipales, le FIS dispose de 835 des 1539 communes algériennes (55,4%). Le FLN ne conserve que 487 communes et est complètement absent désormais des trois plus grandes villes du pays: Alger, Constantine et Oran.

Aux élections des assemblées

populaires, dans les 48 wilayas (départements) du pays, de FIS l'a encore plus nettement emporté, avec 32 wilayas contre 14 au FLN.

Ces victoires inquiètent les observateurs, mais François Mitterrand et Roland Dumas, le ministre des affaires étrangères français, ont tenu à souligner qu'ils n'avaient pas à se mêler d'un «libre choix des Algériens».

Sur place, l'Association Indépendante pour le Triomphe des Droits des Femmes (AITDF) s'est déclarée inquiète, estimant que les maigres acquis des Algériennes, notamment le droit au travail, risquent d'être mis en cause dans les municipalités gagnées par le FIS. (d'après agences)

Guide

La Jordanie vue du ciel

Il existe un bon nombre de guides de la Jordanie. Entre autres, ceux des éditions El Kutba, qui sont très maniables, petits et détaillés.

Jane Taylor nous présente un guide qui génère, qui est un plaisir pour les yeux. Elle se veut écrivain et photographe; je la considère photographe et écrivain. Son livre nous montre la Jordanie comme la voient les grands oiseaux qui la survolent. Toutes ses photos sont, en effet, des vues aériennes qui rendent justice à la lumière et à l'idée d'infini que les paysages de chez nous suggèrent toujours.

Les photos sont somptueuses et souvent émouvantes. Le livre est de grand format. On ne peut

donc l'emporter avec soi comme un guide de poche, mais il permet de rêver et donne envie de voir en vrai les paysages qu'il nous montre, et qu'il décrit aussi dans des textes pleins d'amour et de précision. J'aime le feuilletter lentement, savourant chaque image. C'est un des cadeaux que je préfère offrir aux amis, parce qu'il exprime ce que, par pauvreté de moyens, je n'arrive pas à dire de ce pays que j'aime tant.

«High above Jordan» est maintenant disponible dans les traductions française, italienne et allemande. L'édition en français est en vente au Centre culturel français.

Flavia Romero

A L'AFFICHE

F O C U S

Magazine télé: Aujourd'hui en Jordanie

Deux caps à la fois

Le magazine Aujourd'hui en Jordanie, diffusé tous les mardis soir à 19h15 par la télévision jordanienne, après le journal, fête son cinquième anniversaire en juillet 1990. Saleh Madi, 36 ans, producteur et présentateur de l'émission, est aussi celui qui en a eu l'idée.

Le Jourdain: Quelles étaient ses intentions au début? Saleh Madi: Je voulais aborder de façon élaborée des sujets qui ne peuvent être traités qu'en deux ou trois minutes au journal télévisé. Je pensais notamment à des sujets archéologiques, mais il était clair dès le début que le programme n'avait aucune limite thématique. Sa seule limite était son format: une durée de 15 minutes.

LJ: Il n'a donc pas de ligne directrice? **SM:** Si, tout de même. Prenez mon premier reportage. C'est lui qui m'a donné la direction. C'était un travail sur une découverte importante au nord de la Jordanie, un site Umayyade à Mafraq. L'idée était de traiter un sujet d'histoire très spécialisée, de façon qu'il dépassât l'événement proprement dit. Ainsi j'ai essayé d'évoquer l'ensemble du contexte, de lier le site à la préhistoire et à la contemporanéité. J'ai parlé des origines du lieu et du village moderne qui se trouve aujourd'hui à ses abords. L'intention: évoquer à la fois les liens sociaux et historiques de la Jordanie.

LJ: A qui sont destinées ces émissions? **SM:** A tous les francophones qui ont envie de connaître le pays: les notre comme ceux de nos voisins, en Syrie et au Liban. J'espère même toucher les touristes français dans les territoires occupés, qui, par manque d'informations, n'avaient pas pensé aller en Jordanie.

LJ: Est-ce que promouvoir la Jordanie est son seul but? **SM:** Depuis que nous avons commencé, le magazine a évolué. Nous proposons aujourd'hui des reportages sur les coutumes du pays (les rites du mariage bedouin) ainsi que des reportages sur les lieux de loisirs (jardins zoologiques, boîtes de nuit). Bref, tout ce qui peut donner une idée des couleurs de la vie jordanienne et qui sert de guide. Je viens de tourner un magazine sur les planeurs, représentation d'un sport moderne. Tradition et modernité: nous essayons de suivre ces deux caps à la fois.

LJ: Ses sources? **SM:** Les journaux. Une conférence avec un confrère. Votre mes propres besoins. Un jour, je cherchais un lieu pour amener mes enfants le vendredi, et j'ai pensé au jardin des oiseaux, à Amman. Trouver des lieux de loisir pour toute la famille n'est pas facile chez nous. Ainsi, un besoin personnel m'a semblé avoir une signification sociale et est devenu le sujet d'un documentaire.

LJ: A-t-il une méthode de travail qui lui est particulière? **SM:** Certes. Pour entrer dans le vif et susciter la curiosité du téléspectateur, il faut faire plus que de tourner des images et les monter. Il faut transformer le quotidien. Je me rends toujours avant sur les lieux pour avoir en tête des images précises. La première est décisive. Ces trente secondes d'introduction sont du visuel pur et doivent avoir la valeur qui permet de séduire le spectateur. Au jardin des oiseaux, par exemple, c'est une image de forêt gazonnante qui m'est venue à l'esprit.

LJ: Les images sont-elles toujours aussi bien conçues? **SM:** Il y a celles qui sont des images clés. Elles sont toutes soigneusement préparées. Mais dans le travail documentaire, être alerte et prendre sur le vif des moments qui alimentent le thème fait aussi partie de la méthode. Au jardin encore on a tourné à l'improviste et furtivement un couple isolé. L'image m'aiderait à amplifier la métaphore du thème: ce jardin est un lieu de loisir autant que de joie, où même les amoureux se sentent à l'aise. J'en ai profité.

LJ: Au seuil de la cinquième année, quels sont ses projets pour Aujourd'hui en Jordanie? **SM:** A force de travail intensif pendant ces cinq ans, je vois rangé devant moi un collier d'images qui m'inspire de nouveaux sujets. Ces thèmes méritent d'être traités avec plus d'envergure, sous forme de spéciaux de trente minutes à une heure. Malheureusement, à cause de la crise économique que nous subissons, la télévision souffre, comme tous les départements ministériels, de compressions budgétaires. Si les finances peuvent s'arranger, je pense privilégier le projet d'une série en plusieurs parties sur l'histoire de la Jordanie, de la préhistoire jusqu'à aujourd'hui.

Propos recueillis par Sami Kamel

CINEMA

Magazine télé: Aujourd'hui en Jordanie

Deux caps à la fois

«Trop tard Balthazar», de Philippe Lopes-Carval avec Tania Latajot. (1988). Pivote part en vacances avec ses parents à contre-cœur, puis c'est l'accident... Centre culturel français, mercredi 20 juin à 20h00.

«Friedrich Schlegel», de Peter Schanoni avec Nastassja Kinski, Herbert Grönemeyer, Rolf Hoppe (1983). L'histoire d'amour entre Clara Wieck et le compositeur Robert Schuman, mais aussi l'histoire de la haine du compositeur à l'égard de Friedrich Wieck, le père de Clara. Trois personnages réunis, malgré tout, par une même passion: la musique. Institut Goethe, samedi 23 juin à 20h00 (en allemand, sous-titré en anglais).

«The Maltese Falcon», de John Huston, d'après le roman de Dashiell Hammett, avec Humphrey Bogart (1941). La descente aux enfers du détective Sam Spade, à la recherche d'une statue d'oiseau paré de bijoux inestimables... Un grand classique du film noir hollywoodien, véritable précurseur des aventures de détectives privés. Centre américain, dimanche 17 et jeudi 21 juin, à 19h00 (en anglais).

«Educating Rita», Rita, une jeune coiffeuse, se révolte contre son mari et contre son père qui veulent à tout prix qu'elle fasse un enfant. Elle quitte son travail et le domicile conjugal pour prendre des cours de littérature à l'université d'été et transforme son image pour ressembler aux autres étudiants. British Council, mercredi 20 juin à 19h00.

Ciné-club. Séance quotidienne à 20h00. Projection supplémentaire pour les jeunes, le jeudi à 16h00. Dimanche: Empire of the sun, de Steven Spielberg. Lundi: Masters of the Universe, de Gary Goodard. Mardi: Jaws of Revenge, de Joseph Sargent. Mercredi: Fortress, avec Rachel Ward. Jeudi: The Mission, avec Robert de Niro. Vendredi: Children of a Lesser God, de Randa Haines. Samedi: Radio Days, de Woody Allen.

Films en version originale. Route de l'université, première à droite après l'hôtel Jérusalem puis première à gauche. Le ciné-club se trouve à environ 300 m, sur la gauche de la route.

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Sports

Spain gets second chance; S. Korea fights for survival

UDINE (R) — Spain and South Korea, both with their backs against the wall, have everything to prove when they meet in their second Group E match Sunday.

The Spaniards have to demonstrate above all, to themselves that a poor showing against Uruguay did not reflect their true potential, while for the Koreans Sunday's game is make-or-break.

"If we want to have any hopes of getting through the first round, we must win the next game at all costs," manager Lee Hoe-Taik said at the South Koreans' new seaside base south of Udine.

Still fuming at the errors which handed Belgium a 2-0 victory in South Korea's opening game, Lee has threatened wholesale changes in his lineup.

Goalkeeper Choi In-Young, whose dash out of his area led to Belgium's first goal, is the obvious candidate to lose his place.

Choi left the pitch in tears and since then has locked himself away in his room in shame, according to reports from the team hotel. If this is not penance enough, Lee will recall first choice goalkeeper Kim Pung-Joo, taking the risk that Kim's knee injury may not be fully healed.

Strikers Choi Soon-Ho and Hwang Seon-Hong, both disappointing against Belgium, could also be replaced as South Korea battle desperately to avoid the same fate as in Mexico four years ago when they were eliminated in the first round.

Sunday's match is South Korea's last chance — even a draw is likely to seal their fate — but it also gives Spain a second chance after they escaped with a point despite being outplayed by Uruguay.

"It's clear that we'll do better," said manager Luis Suarez, besieged by accusations that his

players are not fit or keen.

"I'm not planning to make major changes, I've no reason to think they're necessary," he added defiantly, denying any lack of fitness and attributing his team's dullness against Uruguay to tension and mental blocks.

"We're going to play better and things will go better. You can't judge everything just on one game."

Team captain Emilio Butragueno — a shadow of his usual predatory self against Uruguay, the ball only rarely being played upfield to him — said Spain would respond to the wave of criticism levelled against them by playing more sharply.

"We've got to get over this (disappointment)," he said. "The World Cup is not over yet."

"If Butragueno has his way, it will be over for South Korea Sunday."

Robson predicts tight British-Dutch struggle

CAGLIARI (R) — England coach Bobby Robson Friday said he expected his team's World Cup Group F clash with the Netherlands to be as competitive as their meeting in the European finals two years ago.

"I don't think there is much difference between the teams," said Robson. "It will be very close, as it was two years ago for 70 minutes. The Dutch only won that match in the last 20 minutes after we had twice hit the woodwork."

England lost 3-1 in Dusseldorf on June 15, 1988, Dutch striker Marco Van Basten hitting a hat-trick as his team found the rhythm which was to carry them to the final and their first major triumph.

Robson, aware of the fact the Netherlands are struggling to find their form here after being held by Egypt, said: "Their team is very similar to the one we played two years ago, except for Arnold Muhren. But we know that if they find their rhythm, they will be very dangerous."

For Robson, the match has an

additional interest as at least three of the Netherlands' expected line-up play for PSV Eindhoven, the Dutch club Robson will join as coach after the finals.

Friday, however, he would not be drawn into discussing his future or any of the Dutch team or their players.

"I am not here to talk about that or anything to do with Dutch football. That is another job at another time. I am here to work for England until the end of the World Cup finals."

The English Football Association said Thursday night Robson's successor would not be announced while the team was still involved in the World Cup.

Robson confirmed that X-rays Thursday had proved reserve goalkeeper David Seaman had fractured a thumb in training. He said England were applying to FIFA for permission to replace him with Dave Beasant.

He said he had no other injury worries, although captain Bryan Robson missed training to give his injured toe a chance to heal.

Brazil struggles to beat Costa Rica 1-0

TURIN (AP) — Brazil outplayed Costa Rica for 90 minutes Saturday but could only manage a 1-0 victory in a World Cup C Soccer match.

Still, the victory gave Brazil four points from its opening two games in the 24-nation tournament and assured it of a spot in the sudden-death second round.

The three-time champion joined Cameroon, Italy, Czechoslovakia and West Germany, which already had clinched second-round berths.

Brazil scored the only goal in the 33rd minute. Striker Muller's hooked shot flew past goalkeeper Luis Conejo after it was deflected off defender Mauricio Montero.

Brazil created a plethora of chances throughout the one-sided contest, but was foiled either by the dogged Costa Rican defence or the athleticism of Conejo.

Conejo's performance kept alive Costa Rica's chances of advancing in the tournament. The Central American nation has

two points from two games after beating Scotland 1-0 in its opener.

Brazil and Costa Rica are in Group C with Sweden and Scotland. Those teams went also playing Saturday in Genoa.

The Brazilians completely dominated the first half, restricting Costa Rica to the occasional breakaway.

Midfielder Alemao set the pattern in the first minute, firing a shot just centimetres wide.

With Branco floating dangerously on the left, the Brazilians launched wave after wave of attacks. But they were frustrated by a combination of aggressive defence and the skills of Conejo.

In the second minute, Careca and defender Roger Gomes rose high together and the ball flew off the crossbar.

Dunga, Valdo, Careca and Branco all had shots that flew either narrowly off target or were saved by Conejo.

There was no change to the

pattern after the goal.

Valdo came closest to scoring in the 38th minute when his curling freekick was saved one-handed by Conejo.

The second half featured similar one-way traffic with the resolute Costa Rican defence defying the unspurred Brazilian attack.

Ricardo Gomes hit the post with a 48th-minute header and Valdo sent two shots screaming narrowly off target.

Conejo's saves kept Costa Rica's goal differential to 1-1.

Two Brazilian players, Jorge and Mozer, both were cautioned for the second time in the tournament and will miss their team's final first round match against Scotland.

The final whistle was met by deafening jeers and whistles from the disappointed Brazilian fans, accustomed to seeing a goal rush after such pressure by their heroes.

German advance to second round

MILAN (Agencies) — West Germany, displaying the drive and determination of potential champions, surged into the second round of the World Cup with 5-1 destruction of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The West Germans, 4-1 winners over Yugoslavia in their Group D opener, took time to get into their prolific goalscoring stride Friday but once they had pierced the massed UAE defences they were overwhelming.

Rudi Voller claimed the first and the last goals and Jurgen Klinsmann, Lothar Matthaus and Uwe Bein supplied the others, with Khalid Ismail enjoying a moment of glory when he struck for the UAE a minute after halftime to reduce the arrears to 2-1.

On a tumultuous evening of pouring rain, thunder and lightning, the West Germans engulfed their inexperienced but dogged opponents like a relentless elemental force.

"What we attempted to do and succeeded in doing from the very first moment was to put pressure on our opponents," team chief Franz Beckenbauer said.

"We tried not let them develop

their game, otherwise we could have had problems. The only thing we didn't succeed in doing during the first 30 minutes was to score the necessary goals," he noted.

"But when we managed to start scoring, the game developed along a clear scheme. We proved we had no problems," he added.

Beckenbauer reserved special praise for his skipper Matthaus, the tournament's joint top scorer with three goals. Voller also has three.

"I think he gave proof of his excellent form. He is a true captain of the team. He leads the game, he scores goals. You can't do better than that."

The one blot on the West German horizon was the booking of the excellent overlapping left back Andreas Brehme — his second yellow card in two games, which means an automatic ban from Tuesday's clash with Colombia.

"For one single foul I've got another yellow card. I don't know what the referees have against me," said Brehme, who has played a key role in the success of the side with Inter Milan team mates Matthaus and Klinsmann.

This will mean line-up for Beckenbauer, who had been able to field an unchanged side for the first time in his six-year career as manager against the UAE.

Defender Thomas Berthold went off the interval with an adductor muscle injury at half-time but it was mainly a precautionary measure and he should be fit to face the Colombians.

The UAE, beaten 2-0 by Colombia a week ago, face the last match of their World Cup final tournament debut against Yugoslavia next Tuesday.

"Of course we were not expecting to beat the strong German team," the UAE's Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said.

"I told them at the beginning that they just had to go out there and give their best, and I'm happy that they did. They can't give more than that."

The media in the United Arab Emirates Saturday expressed satisfaction with what they saw as a spirited fight by the national team in its World Cup match against West Germany.

Although the UAE lost 5-1, the team taking part in the 24-nation event for the first time earned accolades from all papers in their oil-rich Gulf state.

Belgium hopes to shut down Uruguayan strikers

VERONA, Italy (AP) — Belgium's main strategy for Sunday's World Cup match against Uruguay is to shut down the South American team's potentially explosive strikers.

Uruguay hopes its vaunted strike force finally gets going.

It plans to play its own style since Belgium has a more defensive style and a limited strike force.

Belgium is leading Group E after the opening match with two points, ahead of Spain and Uruguay with one and South Korea with none.

"Uruguay will play like it always does, with no sweeper and no special marking," said Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez. "We have had good results with our style of playing, and the Belgian side has no massive attack."

"The style of play doesn't win the games, the players win," he added.

Uruguay drew 0-0 with Spain in its first Group E match, and its strikers say there're overdue for a

scoring binge. Ruben Sosa has said he would make up for missing a penalty kick in last Wednesday's game by scoring two goals against Belgium.

Belgian defender Eric Gerets says Sosa and the other two Uruguayan threats — Enzo Francescoli and Ruben Paz — can score "at any time" and he is taking them seriously.

"They are better organised and more experienced," said Georges Grun, a Belgian defender who also moves up on attack. "They move you around so much and try to disorganize the defence."

Belgian coach Guy Thys is going with a lineup heavy on defence for Sunday's match, using four defenders and two defensive midfielders. He will play Grun alongside sweeper Stephane Demol, with Lei Clits just in front of them.

Enzo Seifo, who sparked in Belgium's 2-0 win over South Korea in the opening match, will provide Marc Degryse and Jan Ceulemans in attack.

Tabarez won't reveal his lineup until before the match, but he says the team play its traditional style.

Egypt, Cameroun boost African soccer image

SELVA DI FASANO, Italy (AP) — Cameroun's early qualification for the second round of the World Cup has boosted the image of African soccer and revitalised the careers of two veteran stars.

Cameroun victories over Argentina and Romania, along with Egypt's 1-1 draw against the Netherlands, have renewed the debate whether African teams should be better represented at the World Cup.

"I think it is not fair for Africa to have only two teams," said Cameroun coach Valery Nepomnyashchy. "There are two teams here, but I can name a few other African teams that play just as well, such as Algeria, Tunisia, Senegal."

Two places among the 24 finalists are awarded to African squads, as opposed to 13 spots reserved for European nations. Italy's automatic qualification as host actually gives Europe 14 teams this year.

Striker Roger Milla, who

scored both his team's goals in the 2-1 defeat of Romania after coming on as a substitute, agreed that Africa is underrepresented in Italy.

"Algeria and Morocco are very good teams. There is some very good soccer played in Africa," he said.

Nepomnyashchy said opponents, who often "do not play all-out or fight hard enough against the African players," are "serious danger" to the African teams.

And he warned that African soccer will continue to improve.

"I think it's on the right path," he said.

Cameroun's success has been due in large part to a couple of veterans who were not expected to play a significant role on the team. Milla, 38, and goalie Thomas N'Kono, 35, have revitalised their playing careers while leading the team past Argentina and Romania.

Santana sympathises with coach

TURIN (R) — If Brazil fail to win their fourth World Cup in Italy it will not be for want of advice.

"There are 150 million coaches of the national side," said Tele Santana, referring to his soccer-mad compatriots who follow their team's every shot, save and pass with a fevered passion.

Few of them, however, are as experienced as the president of the Brazilian Football Confederation, Sebastiao Lazaroni is under as he tries to guide Brazil to the ultimate triumph.

"The expectations become greater every year that passes," Santana, manager of Brazil's squad during the last two World Cups, told Reuters on Saturday.

His gifted sides, who included such stars as Zico, Socrates and Falcao, fell rather unhelpfully in the later stages of both competitions after momentous battles with Italy and France.

"I had more talent to work with but there are still some great players in the current team," said Santana, who is reluctant to join in the chorus of criticism of Lazaroni's more cautious tactics.

"I have nothing against Lazaroni's use of a libero, I just wish he would allow him to attack as well as defend just as (Franco) Baresi does for Italy," he said.

"Brazil can win the cup if they can only relax their style a bit more and allow the natural talents of Careca, Alemao and Muller to emerge," he added.

Santana, in Italy as a television commentator, has some harsh words about the relatively low standard of the football seen so far.

"The England-Ireland match was so bad that it should be wiped from the World Cup records," he said, only half joking. "Just booting the ball up and down the pitch is no way to play football."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
STANAN HIRSCH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 9542 ♠ J63 ♠ Q8 ♠ J853
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl ?
What action do you take?
A.—You have nothing to contribute on defense and very little on offense. If you raise spades to any level, all you will accomplish is to highlight spade shortness in the enemy hands. Pass.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 9542 ♠ 6 ♠ KJ83 ♠ 732
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl ?
What action do you take?
A.—You have little in defensive values, but you can expect your hand to produce several tricks on offense. Jump to three spades. After the takeout double the jump raise becomes preemptive, not forcing.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ K762 ♠ 83 ♠ QJ95 ♠ Q72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl ?
What action do you take?
A.—Again, ignore the double and make the bid you would have made had East passed instead. One no trump is the clear-cut action.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 83 ♠ QJ95 ♠ Q72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl ?
What action do you take?
A.—As in the previous example, show your strong hand by redoubling. That says nothing about spades—it asks partner to give you the courtesy of the road over any runout by the enemy, so you can double for penalties if you wish.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 83 ♠ QJ95 ♠ Q72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl ?
What action do you take?
A.—As in the previous example, show your strong hand by redoubling. That says nothing about spades—it asks partner to give you the courtesy of the road over any runout by the enemy, so you can double for penalties if you wish.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 83 ♠ QJ95 ♠ Q72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl ?
What action do you take?
A.—As in the previous example, show your strong hand by redoubling. That says nothing about spades—it asks partner to give you the courtesy of the road over any runout by the enemy, so you can double for penalties if you wish.

Q.7—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 83 ♠ QJ95 ♠ Q72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl ?
What action do you take?
A.—As in the previous example, show your strong hand by redoubling. That says nothing about spades—it asks partner to give you the courtesy of the road over any runout by the enemy, so you can double for penalties if you wish.

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New Russian premier pledges to press ahead with reforms

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's new prime minister, elected after striking a deal with President Boris Yeltsin, has pledged to press ahead with reforms designed to improve the lives of ordinary Russians within 18 months.

Ivan Silayev easily outpolled Yeltsin ally and radical industrialist Mikhail Gorbachev but fell one vote short of election in Friday's first round of voting in the parliament of the Russian Federation, the largest of the 15 Soviet republics.

Yeltsin, a vocal opponent of Gorbachev's policies, then met both candidates and proposed Silayev for a second ballot in which the white-haired engineer won the support of 163 of 239 deputies.

Silayev, Soviet deputy prime minister since 1985, said his elec-

tion meant he had to "draw the curtain on my past methods, principles and views and devote myself completely to the welfare of mother Russia."

Referring to Gorbachev's ambitious project of privatisation, de-regulation and spending cuts within 500 days, he told reporters: "Five hundreds days is after all a year and a half."

"And in a year and a half we have an obligation to act so that Russians feel that something positive has happened."

At Yeltsin's urging, the Russian parliament last week passed a declaration on "sovereignty" proclaiming that its constitution took precedence over Soviet law and pledging to take control of the republic's vast resources.

Yeltsin is also campaigning against the Kremlin's economic plan, approved by parliament this

week, to move towards a market system in a process which includes steep price rises.

The Russian leader says he will present an alternative programme which will not affect living standards.

In Lithuania, the rebel republic's government was due to discuss on Saturday how to respond to Gorbachev's offer to start talks on condition the republic freezes its March 11 declaration of immediate independence from Moscow.

Gorbachev made the offer in talks this week in Moscow with leaders of the three Baltic republics, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Lithuania's parliament, which has previously agreed to suspend only laws made after the proclamation, is not expected to dis-

miss the declaration until early next week.

The parliament Friday marked the 50th anniversary of Soviet troops' entry into the republic by appealing to the United Nations to debate the future of the three republics at the next session of its General Assembly.

Soviet state planning chief Yuri Maslyukov told a news conference in Moscow Friday that the Kremlin had decided to restore to Lithuania this week limited supplies of natural gas which were cut under economic sanctions imposed in April.

Members of the Soviet Communist Party's radical democratic party faction open a two-day meeting in Moscow Saturday, two weeks before a key party congress.

Soviets find mass grave of 6,500 Poles, Russians

MOSCOW (R) — The remains of 6,500 Polish soldiers and Soviet citizens killed by Stalin's security police have been found in a mass grave near the city of Kharkov, Ukrainian state security said Saturday.

A spokesman for the KGB in the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, told Reuters by telephone that the bodies were discovered in a copse just outside the eastern Ukrainian city.

"Investigation of the grave is continuing. It's not clear how many of the corpses are Soviet, but it has been established that it contained Polish military," the spokesman said.

The newspaper Moscow News reported earlier this week that human remains and pieces of Polish uniforms, medals and coins had been found in the area by young children playing. Until recently it had been sealed off as a country retreat for KGB officers.

The newspaper gave no clear figures for the numbers in the mass grave but compared it to the Katyn Forest massacre in the neighbouring republic of Byelorussia where 4,000 Polish officers were shot and buried in 1940.

They were among 15,000 Polish officers who were captured by the KGB's predecessor, the NKVD, after Soviet troops moved into eastern Poland.

The fate of the 11,000 others has never been determined, but Moscow News said 3,981 Polish officers fell into the hands of the Kharkov NKVD.

Soviet dictator Josef Stalin ordered the Polish officers to be killed to stamp out any possible future resistance to Communist rule.

Similar purges were carried out against the military and ruling groups after Soviet troops marched into the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Mass graves of Soviet citizens killed in purges from the 1930s to the 1950s have been found throughout the Soviet Union.

Bulgarian premier fights for seat in second round

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria's reformist Prime Minister Andrei Lukanov is among ex-Communists fighting for a seat in Sunday's parliamentary elections, the second round of the country's first free poll in more than four decades.

His Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), the former Communist Party, is virtually assured of a majority in the new National Assembly after capturing 47.15 per cent of the vote in the first ballot. The dissident-led Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) got 36.2 per cent.

Run-off elections are being held in 81 constituencies where no candidate won an outright majority or where less than half the electorate voted.

Lukanov, the interim prime minister credited with reshaping Bulgaria's Communists after hardline leader Todor Zhivkov was ousted in November, surprisingly failed to win his constituency of Pleven against a relatively unknown UDF candidate, Stefan Gaitanjev.

Lukanov, a 51-year-old economist, is already assured of a place in the new 400-member National Assembly as half the seats are allocated from party lists, but he is determined to win in the second round under the

first-past-the-post system. "I am doing my best to win. I would prefer to win my own seat in my native city," he told Reuters after making the first of two pre-election trips this week to the constituency in northern Bulgaria.

Defence Minister Dobri Dzhomrov faces a tough challenge from UDF candidate Yordan Vassilev, editor of the UDF newspaper *Democratia*, in the town of Troyan in central Bulgaria.

Foreign diplomats predicted the vote would split 50-50 between the two main parties, giving the BSP the 29 seats it needs for a parliamentary majority.

The main task of the National Assembly will be to draft a constitution to create a post-Communist, multi-party system.

Diplomats attributed the BSP's success in the first round to experience and a more charismatic leadership.

But they also said a legacy of fear after 35 years of totalitarian rule under Zhivkov survived in rural areas where anti-reformist BSP members still controlled local councils and municipalities.

The UDF, a coalition of 16 groups, captured the lion's share of the vote in major towns and cities.

Vietnam-China talks fail to bridge gap over Cambodia

BANGKOK (AP) — Senior Chinese and Vietnamese negotiators failed during recent talks to bridge differences over how to resolve the 11-year-old Cambodian war.

Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin said the gap has not narrowed on two key issues: The status of Cambodia's government and of the army during the transition to a new administration, the official Chinese News Agency Xinhua reported late Friday.

Xu held talks in Vietnam's capital, Hanoi, with Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co during the first visit by a senior Chinese official since the two sides fought a bloody border war in early 1979. The two days of talks ended Wednesday.

Xu's visit was the fourth round of Sino-Vietnamese talks over the past year and a half.

The war over Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia a few weeks earlier. The Cambodian war continues, with Chinese-backed guerrillas fighting the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh.

Hopes for peace have centred on proposals for United Nations involvement in administering the country after a truce and before elections.

But the Xinhua report quoted Xu as saying Friday in Bangkok that, "we came to know through the exchange of views that Vietnam does not agree to bringing into full play the role of the United Nations."

Sri Lanka, rebels hold second round of talks amid fighting

COLOMBO (R) — A special Sri Lankan government negotiator began a second day of talks Saturday with Tamil separatists at one of their hideouts in northern Jaffna as fighting between rebels and government forces raged close by.

Military sources in Colombo said Justice Minister Shabir Hameed, on his way to the meeting, was briefly delayed at Jaffna's Palaly Airport when the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

attacked it shortly after his plane landed.

A rebel source speaking by telephone from Jaffna charged that the car of one of the rebel Tamil leaders going to meet Hameed had come under fire.

"When our (leader) Dominic went to collect the minister after contacting the airport on a walkie-talkie, (his) car was hit by bullets and badly damaged," the source said. Dominic is one of the Tigers' leaders attending the

talks.

Hameed was later taken to a "safe place" where the talks began, the source said.

Diplomats said they held out little hope the meeting would result in a peace settlement as fighting between the Tigers and government troops intensified.

On Friday, a few minutes after Hameed's plane left Palaly after the first round of talks, the airport came under heavy fire from rebels around it.

Colombia announces shakeup of military commanders

BOGOTA (R) — Colombia has announced a surprise shakeup in the command of the armed forces, replacing three of the country's highest-ranking officers.

A decree signed by President Virgilio Barco named a new overall commander of the armed forces and new army and air force chiefs.

The three former commanders were transferred to the staffs of Army and Air Force High Commands, which effectively means retirement.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said he could not comment on the reason for the changes.

Army watchers described the shakeup, less than two months before president-elect Cesar Gaviria is to take office, as surprising.

E. Germans nab another suspected guerrilla

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany Saturday announced the arrest of another suspected member of the left-wing Red Army Faction (RAF) urban guerrilla group which waged war on West German society in the 1970s.

Interior Minister Peter-Michael Diestel told East German news agency (ADN) that police captured Sigrid Sternbeck, 40, Friday near the eastern town of Frankfurt-on-Oder. She offered no resistance.

Diestel praised the sixth arrest within 11 days of a RAF suspect as another example of successful cooperation between authorities in the two Germanys.

During its heyday in the 1970s, the RAF — also known as the Baader-Meinhof gang after its founders — ran riot in West Germany with a spate of political murders, bombings and bank robberies.

West German police believe 30 members of the group sought refuge in then-Communist East Germany in the early 1980s after many of their leaders were killed or jailed in the West, and that about 20 are still at large.

Western officials say many were given pseudonyms and protected by East Germany's former Stasi security police.

Chamorro announces drastic cuts in army

MANAGUA (R) — President Violeta Chamorro has announced drastic cuts in the Nicaraguan army, Central America's largest, and conditioned further reductions on neighbouring countries also reducing their forces.

Chamorro said in a speech Friday that by the time her government completes its first 100 days in office on Aug. 2, the army will be reduced to 41,000 men, half the size it was when she took office on April 25.

"I want a blessed nation that instead of burying its sons in a war between brothers, buries arms forever," Chamorro said in the speech attended by members of the army high command, her cabinet, Roman Catholic Church primate Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo and Managua-based diplomats.

Top army officer General Humberto Ortega, who will remain in his post, said the Nicaraguan force now numbered about

60,000, having been cut from 96,660 men at the beginning of the year.

The Nicaraguan army was formed by the leftist Sandinista government after the 1979 revolution ousted rightist dictator Anastasio Somoza.

During the height of the war against U.S.-backed contra rebels the government force, still called the Popular Sandinista Army, grew to over 100,000 men armed with an array of Soviet-supplied weapons.

An estimated 30,000 people died in the war, which was fought throughout most of the 1980s. Chamorro campaigned for the Feb. 25 elections against the Sandinistas promising to end the war and "send all the weapons to the bottom of the sea."

The president said Friday, "the war is behind us." She noted that 14,200 contras had been disbanded and the full rebel force was due to be disbanded in the coming days.

Chamorro said more cuts will be made in the army, including the officers corps, after the force is reduced to 41,000 men.

But she said the size of further cuts would depend on accords on a "reasonable balance of forces" in Central America.

"A Central America in peace, in democracy and where all conflicts are resolved through dialogue does not need armies, neither large nor small," Chamorro said.

Chamorro left after Friday for Guatemala where she will take part in a Central American presidential summit. Although the summit is expected to focus on economic issues, Chamorro has said she will also call on her counterparts to make decisions on regional disarmament.

Local media had reported that Chamorro was considering announcing the resignation of General Ortega, the older

brother of former President and Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega.

However, in her speech Chamorro made no reference to General Ortega — who is a symbol of continued Sandinista dominance in the army to some hard-line anti-Sandinistas — and the army leader told reporters after wards he was staying on in his post.

In addition to the cuts, Chamorro announced all draftees now serving in the Nicaraguan army will be discharged by Dec. 7, leaving only volunteers in the force.

She said special actions will be taken to disarm civilians so that by Christmas only military personnel have war weapons.

The Sandinistas handed out thousands of assault rifles to peasant farmers and other Sandinista supporters to defend themselves against possible contra attacks.

Indian threatens Canada constitutional accord

OTTAWA (R) — A group of 100 Canadian Indians in his opposition to a constitutional accord some say is necessary to national unity.

Provincial political leaders in Manitoba say Elijah Harper's legislative stalling may well kill the accord's chances of being ratified before the June 23 deadline.

Manitoba and Newfoundland are the only two of Canada's ten provinces yet to ratify the accord. The accord was ratified unanimously Friday in New Brunswick.

In an attempt to bring Quebec into the constitution, in 1987 the provincial premiers and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney reached the Meech Lake Accord — named for the lake resort near Ottawa where it was signed. Meech Lake gives special recognition to Quebec's culture and language, but Indians criticise it because it lacks provisions for their unique status.

"We've got to have the courage to go all the way," Harper told a crowd of supporters at Winnipeg's convention centre Friday afternoon. Harper, the only Indian member of the Manitoba

Legislature, has used procedural rules to block action on Meech Lake.

"The accord as it is, is unacceptable," said Phil Fontaine, president of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. "We want to be recognised for who we are, a distinct people which represents a fundamental characteristic of Canada."

Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa issued a thinly veiled threat to Harper Friday, saying if Manitoba natives thwart the Meech Lake Accord, aboriginal people will lose Quebec's support for their concerns.

"There will be no winners," if the accord is scuttled, Bourassa said. "Neither the natives nor Canada nor any province will win from such a situation."

Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon said he had spoken with Mulroney and said the prime minister was deeply concerned about the deadlock.

Prince Edward's Island Premier Joe Ghiz says there now appears to be only one way to save the Meech Lake Accord: every province must pass a constitutional amendment postponing the ratification date.

Fire extinguished on tanker in Gulf of Mexico

GALVESTON, Texas (AP) — The fire that had burned for a week on the Norwegian supertanker *Mega Borg* is extinguished but officials said it could flare again.

Crews Friday began spraying oil-eating microbes into the Gulf of Mexico waters surrounding the *Mega Borg* in the first open-sea release of the bacteria to clean up a spill.

The Coast Guard boosted its estimate of the amount of oil released into the Gulf of Mexico to 4.3 million gallons (16 million litres), making it the nation's fifth largest spill. Some of the oil was skimmed from the surface and the Coast Guard said most of the light African crude evaporated or burned. Less than 22,000 gallons (83,600 litres) remained in the water, the Coast Guard said.

The worst oil spill in U.S. history was last year when the Exxon Valdez ran aground, spilling nearly 11 million gallons (42 million litres) of heavy crude on the Prince William Sound in Alaska.

The oil spilled from the *Mega Borg* after an as yet unexplained explosion set the ship afire last week. The fire was extinguished Friday afternoon, but officials said they would have to wait at least 24 hours for the ship to cool before removing the remaining oil. The ship could catch fire again, Coast Guard Petty Officer Todd Nelson said.

The Coast Guard had said the first tar balls from the leaking Norwegian supertanker could wash ashore late Friday on Bolivar peninsula, across the bay from Galveston Island. But county officials said they had no un-

usual reports of oil on shore. "We don't anticipate the oil will come before Sunday. We're prepared," said Galveston City Manager Doug Matthews.

Crews on four fireboats also continued spraying water on the ship, which exploded and caught fire late last Friday, 90 kilometres off Galveston. Gray smoke spewed from the rear section of the vessel.

More than two dozen smaller boats used skimming devices to suck up or corral the rusty brown oil trailing from the tanker. Salvage crews said they had skimmed 146,386 gallons (556,278 litres) of oil.

Officials working on a Coast Guard boat mixed bacteria with sea water and sprayed it on a section of the 48-kilometre-long slick.

About 45 kilograms of microbes were sprayed over an acre (about half a hectare). Officials will check the area Saturday to see if the experiment was successful.

The process, known as bioremediation, had never been tried on an oil spill in open seas, although lab experiments have been successful, said Texas Land Commissioner Garry Mauro.

Bioremediation has been used for years to clean up hazardous waste sites, treat sewage and wastewater and extract oil from tight geologic formations. The procedure also was used to clean some rocks on shore after the Exxon Valdez accident, Mauro said.

In Galveston, a Norwegian maritime panel ended three days of questioning surviving crew members in hopes of finding what caused the explosion and blast.

Bucharest calm as miners return home after rampage

BUCHAREST (R) — An uneasy calm settled on Bucharest as miners ended a rampage of violence and began returning home, applauded by their president for crushing a "fascist coup" but condemned by others at home and abroad.

Police and soldiers were guarding government headquarters, the television station and other key sites late Friday night, replacing the squads of miners who ruled the streets for 38 hours, beating up citizens at will.

But at Bucharest's main railway station there were signs of public anger at the estimated 10,000 miners from the western Jiu Valley as they were transported out of the capital by the trainload.

A hostile, shouting crowd formed around one straggling miner, easily identified by his grey overalls. "Why did you miners come to our homes to beat up children and kill people?" cried one distraught man. The miner was shepherded away by railway officials.

President Ion Iliescu, who called in the club-wielding, helmeted miners to quell what he called a fascist coup attempt, earlier publicly paid tribute to them at a mass gathering.

"I thank you once again for what you have demonstrated — that you are people who can be counted on, especially in difficult moments," said Iliescu, whose National Salvation Front won an

overwhelming victory at elections last month.

The miners were drafted in to Bucharest after security forces failed to halt attacks on the Interior Ministry and other public buildings by anti-government protesters Wednesday.

The unrest had erupted when police broke up a seven-week-old demonstration in the heart of the city by protesters who claimed Iliescu's government was neo-Communist and had hijacked the revolution that toppled dictator Nicolae Ceausescu in December.

But the behaviour of the miners — who meted out beatings at random, branding their victims drug addicts, prostitutes, gypsies and troublemakers — provoked a storm of criticism.

The Independent Group for Democracy, which helped organise the seven-week protest that jammed a main Bucharest boulevard, accused the miners of "generating an atmosphere of terror."

Opposition Peasants' Party leader Ion Raicu, whose home and party headquarters were ransacked, said he was deeply saddened by the events and said they showed Romania was not the democracy he had hoped to see.

Prime Minister Petre Roman acknowledged that some innocent people had been molested, and said there were cases in which the authorities had been unable to control the miners' actions.

Abroad, the events in

Bucharest attracted criticism from the European Community and both superpowers.

EC Commissioner Bruce Millan said the community would delay signing a trade and cooperation agreement with Romania.

The U.S. State Department also said a decision on a major trading concession for Romania — the granting of most favoured nation status — would be deferred.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said Moscow hoped stability and democratic reforms in Romania would be ensured as it made the transition from an authoritarian regime to a genuine legal state.

When news of anti-government protests in Bucharest reached Petria Mine, Ion Greifaleanu grabbed a wooden club and headed for the capital.

There he and some 10,000 other Romanian coalminers roved the streets in packs, questioning anyone they suspected of being involved in the protests Wednesday and beating people who resisted.

"There could have been devastation, something almost like a coup," Greifaleanu said earlier in the day, his coal-blackened hands gripping his stout black axe handle.

"No we're here and we're going to stick around until things are cleared up. We came together because the miners are like brothers."

The centre of the clean-up operation Friday was Bucharest's eight-lane Maghern boulevard, which until Wednesday had been blocked by a seven-week anti-government demonstration.

On Thursday and Friday, it was patrolled by buses and trucks packed with steel-helmeted miners, all clutching clubs or iron bars and ready to swoop on anyone they suspected of being hostile.

Many warned journalists and news photographers to stay away.

"I don't want to eat, I don't want to wash and I don't want to talk to you," one tattooed miner from the Jiu Valley, told a Western journalist.

"I'm here to find people who cause disorder," he said, flexing a doubled-up strip of high-pressure hose he was using as a truncheon.

On Friday, Bucharest residents reacted with a mixture of fascination and fear as packs of miners entered restaurants and shops, apparently unhindered by uniformed police.

Instead the police, whom the government criticised for weakness during Wednesday's protests, did little more than collect bruised and battered victims thrust at them by the miners.

Tense shoppers clustered in food queues or huddled together on street corners, nervously eyeing the random interrogations.

"Just look straight ahead."

Don't try to catch their eye," one Romanian warned.

Some bystanders welcomed the miners, waving at their hunched buses or sending children to give them flowers.

Others were hostile, however. "To hell with these miners," said a young man, turning away, exasperated from a street corner discussion.

"Hey — that guy's just said, 'to hell with the miners,'" an elderly woman shouted to a group of pitworkers who were questioning a passer-by a few metres away.

Within seconds he was grabbed by six miners, struck in the face, pulled by the hair and bundled into the back of a nearby police van.

Across the street two trucks screeched to a halt and 20 miners rushed to help make an arrest on a crowded pavement.

Two minutes later they emerged with their prisoner — a sobbing young woman, whose dress had been pulled up above her hips.

"Let's hope for her sake they really take her to a police station," someone murmured as they pushed her onto the floor of an open van.

As the miners pulled out Friday evening, one of their leaders warned that they would be back if necessary.

"With this kind of people we'll do the same thing again," Miron Cozma said. "And we will take the same measures."

Liz Taylor leaves hospital

SANTA MONICA, California (AP) — Actress Elizabeth Taylor has been released from the hospital after a two-month stay in which the celebrated actress nearly lost her life, her publicist said.

"She's so happy to be going home. She's very excited," said spokeswoman Chen Sam. Miss Taylor, 58, will go to her home in Beverly Hills "to recuperate for a couple of months," Ms. Sam said.

The actress had been hospitalised at St. John's Hospital and health centre in Santa Monica since April 16 and had been in the hospital's intensive care unit for treatment of viral pneumonia.

Miss Taylor smiled and waved to reporters as she drove away from St. John's. The New York publicist quoted Miss Taylor as saying, "I am finally glad to be going home. My sole concern at this time is focused on my getting well and carrying on with my life."

"Throughout this experience, I have learned how precious life is, how much I love it and years to live more of it. I am grateful to everyone who has supported me through this difficult period."

Players awarded time off for love

ROME (R) — Cameroon and Italy World Cup players were all smiles Friday — they had been given time off to see their wives and girlfriends. "Today is the day for meeting the wives," Cameroon Manager Valery Nepomniachy pronounced. "Footballers are also people and if a man is in discomfort for a long time it can affect his work." Both squads have been living celibate lives at their hotel headquarters, guarded by police outside and officials within.

Italy goalkeeper Walter Zenga refused to be drawn on his plans for the afternoon. "Ask me tomorrow," he said.

Menem, wife trade angry telegrams

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine President Carlos Menem and his wife Zulema Yoma have exchanged angry telegrams in the marital war which broke out after Menem banished her from their official home this week. Menem, 59, evicted his wife Tuesday, a day after returning from a round-the-world trip during which Yoma, 47, had called news conferences at the Olivos presidential residence to criticise her husband and his administration. The telegraph skirmish was reported by local private news agencies with access to copies of the messages. The president fired off the first telegram Wednesday, in answer to a message Yoma had sent Tuesday threatening to sue him if he did not allow her back into the residence within 24 hours. "The order I gave, much to my chagrin, was caused by your own behaviour and your follies, which have become public and thus have harmed my presidential authority," Menem said. The couple's so-called "war of the Menems" has been televised to millions of Argentine homes. The most celebrated episode showed guards turning Yoma and the couple's two children away from the gates of the Olivos residence.